# MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 FEBRUARY 1982

## Syria

Security Situation -- Citing travelers' reports, Monte Carlo radio said fighting continued in Hamah on 19 February, albeit less intensively. The radio said more than 500 Muslim Brotherhood rebels in military uniforms were still resisting, using automatic weapons and mortars. It also noted that two fundamentalist opposition groups claimed responsibility for the 18 February blast at the Ministry of Information building in Damascus, which also houses the AL-BA'TH newspaper. According to AFP, one person was killed and 40 others were injured.

In a statement reported by Damascus television on 21 February, an Information Ministry official said Hamah was completely quiet with no further acts of sabotage. He said investigations were continuing into the search campaign that began after a Muslim Brotherhood sabotage attempt. However, in a 19 February statement broadcast by Baghdad's Voice of Arab Syria radio, the Islamic Revolution Command said the morale of the mujahdin in Hamah was still high and they continued to control strategic positions. Noting that four mosques and a number of houses and government buildings had been destroyed in the fighting inside the city, the statement said the rebels knocked out 70 government tanks and three defense squad centers. In another statement broadcast by the same radio, the Islamic Revolution Command urged Damascus residents to practice civil disobedience and to stay out of the streets to enable mujahidin to move more freely. Citizens should refuse to pay taxes, the statement said, and should close all commercial, industrial and educational establishments. It called on foreign diplomats in Damascus to break the "information blackout" by informing their governments about the "popular revolution" in Syria and to advise their subjects to stay away from areas of clashes.

Ba'th Party Statement, Press Comment -- Damascus radio broadcast a Ba'th Party National Command statement that lauded the coup of 23 February 1966, in which the party eliminated the "rightist" leadership. However, the rightists later took power in Iraq, the statement said, and the Baghdad rulers began plotting against Syria and gave the Muslim Brotherhood money and arms in order to force Syria to abandon its road of steadfastness. The radio also reported an ATH-THAWRAH editorial that accused the United States of resorting to open warfare against Syria's steadfastness and national unity. ATH-THAWRAH said the United States has been disappointed because the Syrian masses have liquidated the latest conspiracy by the Muslim Brotherhood, "the agent reserve of the CIA."

## Lebanon

Beirut radio reported that after several days of violent clashes in the northern city of Tripoli, a cease-fire took effect on the afternoon of 21 February. According to AFP, 17 people were killed and about 60 were wounded in fighting that involved Syrian Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) and local armed groups. Voice of Lebanon radio said the violence started on 19 February when the Popular Resistance, the 24th October group and some Palestinian groups clashed with the ADF and their supporters.

The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that Christian militia in the southern border enclave shelled the Al-Hasbani River Valley on 20 February. Meanwhile, Voice of Hope radio noted that after leaving a hospital in Haifa, Maj Sa'd Haddad said that if the IDF and his militia forces attacked, they would fight not the Lebanese but only the Palestinians.

## PLO

'Arafat, Hawatimah Speeches -- The Voice of Palestine carried a speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at a Beirut rally on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). 'Arafat declared in

connection with the 29-30 January "battle" near Tayasir that he can never cease fire so long as there is occupied Palestinian territory. He added that no Palestinian leadership can cease fire in such circumstances, saying that the PLO agreed to a cease-fire only across the Lebanese border.

In an address to the same rally reported by the radio, DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah called for a new Steadfastness and Confrontation Front summit to ensure the implementation of an economic and political boycott, including an oil boycott, against the United States. Hawatimah stressed the need for Palestinian solidarity with the Lebanese National Movement and with Syria, and referred to the recent disturbances in Hamah as part of the imperialist attack against Syria.

## Israel

West Bank Unrest -- Jerusalem radio reported that security forces used tear gas to disperse a demonstration in Ramallah protesting the closure of Bi'r Zayt University. According to a later report by the radio, the initiators of the demonstration complained that the security forces used violence in dispersing it, but the security sources defended the use of tear gas because high school students who joined the demonstrators threw stones at the soldiers.

Rafah Border -- DAVAR reported on 19 February that Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon ordered Hayim Erez, the commander of the Southern Command, who was scheduled to move the border fence in the Rafah area on 22 February, not to demolish any buildings in Rafah for the purpose of amending the border. According to the paper, Egypt has rejected eight Israeli proposals designed to demarcate the border so as to avoid suffering for the inhabitants. Jerusalem radio reported that at a Rafah meeting between Erez and other Israeli officials it was agreed that Israel will do all it can not to demolish houses in Rafah and not to evict inhabitants from their land because of the international border demarcation. According to the radio, the Israeli officials met with Rafah notables and asked them to cooperate with the border demarcators. They also promised full compensation, in accordance with the law, to every resident whose property is damaged or taken away, the radio reported.

## Egypt

Government Policy -- Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din outlined government policy in a 20 February statement to the People's Assembly broadcast live by Cairo radio. On foreign policy, he said Egypt considers it imperative that the Palestinian issue should take priority in the quest for a comprehensive peace. Amid a detailed exposition of government economic policies, Muhyi ad-Din announced that to stabilize Egypt's currency, imports will be financed through the banks without transferring currency.

Relations With Chad -- MENA reported that Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali had revealed an Egyptian decision to resume full diplomatic relations with Chad.

## Saudi Arabia

Security Cooperation -- Riyadh television reported that Saudi Arabia signed a security cooperation agreement with the UAE on 21 February. According to WAKH, the agreement provides for the exchange of equipment, expertise and training, for the extradition of criminals and for border cooperation. SPA noted that the kingdom signed a similar agreement with Qatar later the same day. WAKH said the Saudis also expect to sign security agreements with Oman and Kuwait.

Oil Cutback Denial -- SPA reported on 21 February that the under secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources denied that the kingdom had decided to reduce oil production to 7-7.5 million barrels per day and affirmed that Saudi production is continuing at the maximum level envisaged of 8.5 million barrels per day.

## Cheysson Trip

French and Gulf media reported on French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson's 2-day visit to the UAE on 19-20 February. Paris radio noted that the atmosphere of Cheysson's talks became more relaxed after his statement that a future Palestinian state should be located in the territories occupied by Israel. Citing UAE Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, WAKH reported that Cheysson expressed France's readiness to supply the UAE with a nuclear reactor for peaceful purposes. After arrival in Iraq on 21 February, Cheysson said in a statement reported by INA that France desires to bolster relations with Iraq in all fields, particularly the nuclear field.

## Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation -- An Iranian communique broadcast by Tehran radio said that Iranian forces launched an attack on 20 February against the heart of the enemy forces in the Chazzabeh gorge and captured a strategic point. Tehran radio also claimed that 500 Iraqi soldiers were killed in this operation. According to a later Iranian communique broadcast by the radio, the Iraqis tried to launch a counteroffensive but were forced to return to their former positions after a fierce battle.

An Iraqi communique carried by INA reported organized and wide-scale Iranian attacks in the Bostan area 18-20 February but claimed that all enemy attempts were crushed. According to an Iraqi commander, cited by INA, the attacking Iranian forces amounted to over one division and several infantry battalions. A later communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed that 3,387 Iranians were killed and a large number wounded in the Bostan battles, while admitting the death of 200 Iraqis. The communique added that Iraqi planes made 22 sorties and Iraqi helicopters 18 sorties before returning safely to base. According to INA, Iraq expressed to the International Red Cross its readiness to accept a brief cease-fire to enable the Iranians to evacuate their dead from a no-man's land in the Bostan sector.

Prisoner Visits, Mediation -- KUNA reported that at the request of Iran and Iraq Kuwait has officially announced its agreement to act as a staging station for the exchange of families of prisoners taken in the war.

According to AFP, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman stated that Iran will receive former Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, who is attempting to mediate. However, the spokesman added that Iran will not negotiate as long as Iraqi troops remain on its territory and as long as Iraq has not paid Iran war indemnities, AFP reported.

## Iran

Security Situation -- Tehran radio reported that 11 people were killed and 61 injured when a powerful bomb exploded inside a garbage can in a Tehran square early on 22 February. According to the radio, street sweepers, schoolchildren and other passers-by comprised most of the casualties.

Khomeyni Health -- IRNA reported that Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani told a 21 February press conference in New Delhi that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni "is in fine shape."

## Afghanistan

AFP reported that Muslim rebels captured a message from the Qandahar Province sarandoy commander to the interior minister in which the former said his force lost three quarters of its men over the last 6 months. The commander said that out of 2,692 men in the ranks only 617 are left, of whom only half are fit for action.

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'ARAFAT, HAWATIMAH WARN OF IMPENDING ATTACK

JN211635 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] PLO Chairman'Arafat today spoke at the rally being held in the Beirut Arab University on the occasion of 13th anniversary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]. Also attending the rally, which was addressed by the front's Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah, were members of the Lebanese National Movement; Rif'at Sa'd, deputy secretary general of the Egyptian National Progressive Unionist Groupings; a representative from Democratic Yemen and members of the Palestinian resistance movement.

Speaking to a packed hall, PLO Chairman 'Arafat stressed Lebanese-Palestinian solidarity. He underlined the cohesion and joint destiny of the Palestinian resistance with the Lebanese National Movement, which, he said, would stand in the face of coming Isreali aggression in south Lebanon.

'Arafat praised the brave resistance of the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and of the Syrian Arab people of the occupied Golan Heights.

In his address to the rally, the Democratic Front Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah warned that the United States, Israel and their allies are preparing to launch an attack against the national liberation movmenent in the area. He noted that when the Camp David front sees that its political attack has failed, it will launch an invasion of southern Lebanon and attack Beirut itself. The Israeli aggression could also be directed against the Arab Deterrent Forces and even extend into Syrian territory. Hawatimah called for the holding of the sixth Confrontation and Steadfastness Summit in order that a unified and aggressive, rather than passive, Arab position be taken to face the Israeli amd imperialist enemy. He added that the Confrontation and Steadfastness Front should ensure the implementation of an economic and political boycott against the United States which will include an oil boycott.

The Democratic Front leader stressed the necessity for Palestinian solidarity with the Lebanese National Movement and Syria and, referring to the recent disturbances in Hamah, asserted that these part of the imperialist attack against Syria. He finally called for democratic reforms in the Arab countries in order to better meet the challenges from outside.

The Lebanese National Movement was represented at the rally by Secretary General Muhsin Ibrahim, who pledged to Lebanese solidarity with the Palestinian cause. He noted that the United States' decision to attack the Confrontation and Steadfastness Front was exemplified recently by what has been happening in Syria. The only way to be able to meet the attacks of imperialism, added Ibrahim, was by being prepared to clash with it totally.

Further on 'Arafat's Speech

JN211843 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat -- identified as Abu 'Ammar -- at a rally held in the Beirut Arab University on 21 February 1982 on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Brothers: On this day, while celebrating the anniversary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] [applause] -- the anniversary of comrades in the one trench -- I tell my brother and companion Nayif Hawatimah [applause], my brothers and companions in the DFLP Political Bureau [applause], my brothers and companions of the gun in the DFLP, that we are together and side by side in the march toward the liberation of Palestine, all of Palestine. [applause]

[I would like to remind my brother Muhsin [Ibrahim] of the Lebanese National Movement] that we did not ask for a cease-fire in the July war; it was they who asked for a cease-fire in the July war. [applause] You all remember, and here is my brother Muhsin, that we said after their request for a cease-fire that we do not abide by the cease-fire according to their cease-fire. We said we agree to a cease-fire across the Lebanese borders in our military operations against this occupying enemy out of commitment to the promises we made at the Arab summit in Tunis. We said we abide by not using Lebanese territory in our military operations. This was clear and I say this so the West Europeans and Reagan, who wondered if the Tayasir battle, which lasted 24 hours southeast of Nabulus, was a cease-fire or no cease-fire, can hear me. However, I can never cease fire as long as there is occupied Palestinian territory. [applause] This should be clear. No Palestinian leader can cease fire as long as there is occupied Palestinian territory. The joint forces have Cubs and Flowers [male and female youth organizations] fighting and will continue to advance. We know, brothers, that Palestine was sold at the cheapest price.

HABIB CHATTI INTERVIEWED ON IRAQ-IRAN WAR

JN201831 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Radio correspondent interview with Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, held in Paris, date not specified -- live or recorded]

[Text] We addressed a question to Chatti on the coming meeting of the Islamic Peace Committee, which will be held in Jidda in light of his meeting with the Iranian foreign minister in New York. Chatti answered:

My meeting with the Iranian foreign minister is not the first with an Iranian official. In October in New York I met with [Hoseyn] Musavi who was then the foreign minister and is now the prime minister. I outlined the stand of the Islamic Peace Committee to him and proposed a plan to resume contacts between the belligerents through the Islamic Committee. Iran's answer to this proposal came later. Musavi told me that Iran would not agree to negotiate with Iraq as long as Iraqi forces continue to occupy Iranian territories. I then addressed to him a message telling him that the issue is not one of direct negotiations with the Iraqis but contacts through the Peace Committee on the basis of the aforementioned proposal.

When I met with Velayati recently at the United Nations, I reminded him of my meeting with Musavi and once again explained to him our proposal, which can be summarized as follows: The creation of three committees. The first would discuss the essence of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict and try to make suggestions for a solution. If these suggestions are accepted then fighting shall be ceased. The second committee would deal with the issue of sending observers and placing Islamic forces on the border between the two countries to avoid any contact between the two sides' forces. The third committee would discuss the reasons of the war in order to identify the side responsible for starting the war and name the aggressor. You know that each of the fighting parties is accusing the other side of starting the war.

[Question] What was the Iranian foreign minister's reply?

[Answer] That he would carry these suggestions to the Defense Council and Iranian officials and that he would inform us of the answer later.

[Question] Did Iraq accept these suggestions?

[Answer] Yes. Iraq accepted these suggestions.

## KUWAIT

### CABINET AGREES TO ROLE IN IRAQ-IRAN POW VISITS

LD211340 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1245 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 21 Feb (KUNA) -- Kuwait today officially announced its agreement to act as a staging station for the exchange of visits by families of prisoners taken in the Iraqi-Iranian war. This was announced by Kuwaiti Cabinet Secretary General 'Abd al-'Aziz al-'Utaybi following the weekly meeting of the Kuwaiti Government today. He said: "The Cabinet has approved requests from Iran and Iraq this regard and has set up a committee chaired by the Foreign Ministry under secretary."

### SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN MIDEAST SOLUTION URGED

LD191448 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1346 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Beirut, 19 Feb (KUNA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Information Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah today declared: "The USSR must play a role" in solving the Middle East crisis.

In a statement to the Lebanese magazine AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI, to be published on Sunday, Shaykh as-Sabah affirmed: "The principal threat to the Gulf and indeed to all the Arab and Islamic countries is Israel." He affirmed that Israel "will never stop at its borders," having annexed the Golan last December, "until the Arabs close their ranks, take a firm stand and settle their differences and squabbles."

"Only then," he added, "will those who persist in supporting and aiding Israel, think carefully before encouraging, and helping to commit, aggression.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister reiterated his country's support for the 8-point Saudi plan submitted by Prince Fahd last August calling it "a good basis for ending inter-Arab differences and working for a solution to the Palestine question, which is our principal cause."

Shaykh as-Sabah said it was possible to attain Arab solidarity, which is earnestly needed in the present circumstances, "for the threat is to all of us and the enemy views us as one. Once solidarity is achieved, we can put an end to any aggression on any part of our Arab homeland."

He added: "Kuwait is a part of the Arab homeland and its policy is based on constant work to close the gap between the various views. Kuwait does all it can to ensure the realization of Arab solidarity and will not rest until it sees solidarity established, because this will serve the interests of all."

On the Gulf war, Shaykh as-Sabah said he "hopes greater efforts will be exerted" to put an end to the war between Iraq and Iran, which has been going on since September 1980. He expressed his hope that "the officials in Iran will realize the dangers inherent in the continuation of the war."

On the desired Arab solidarity, Shaykh as-Sabah expressed his hope that the reasons and causes for Egypt's alienation from us will disappear and that we always hope for the return of normal relations, as they were, if not better than they were.

On the possibility of reconvening the 12th Arab summit which was postponed on 25 November in Fes, Shaykh as-Sabah said: "We are optimistic about the convening of the Fes summit. It is the circumstances which will fix the date for its convening."

As for the situation in the six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council in the wake of the recent discovery of attempts to create disturbances, the Kuwaiti foreign minister said: "Nothing new has happened in the Gulf since the Bahrain incident. The situation is stable and security is in a trusted hand which is looking after the sublime interests."

With regard to the situation in Lebanon, Shaykh as-Sabah said he always expects further Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, and indeed against every part of the Arab homeland. Israel was originally founded on aggression and usurpation and it is impossible to put an end to such aggression without united action.

The Kuwaiti minister announced the continuation of his country's mediation between the Sultanate of Oman and South Yemen to remove the causes of differences between the two sister countries. In his views things will proceed in a manner that will preserve for the two sides the rights of their peoples.

On Kuwait's stand on French President Francois Mitterrand's visit to Israel, Shaykh as-Sabah said: "In our view such a visit does not serve the common interests of France and the Arab states. Has anything new happened since Israel's attack on Iraq, the raid on the reactor, and the annexation of the Golan? Indeed, is there anything new in Israel's stand on the organization [presumably the United Nations]?"

On the Middle East crisis being in the international conflict arena, the Kuwaiti foreign minister said: "There is no doubt that the Soviet Union is a great power and so long as the Middle East crisis is in the international conflict arena, then the Soviet Union must have a role in solving it so that there will be no prejudice toward one side."

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS EUROPEANS' JERUSALEM MEETING

LD211426 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1240 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 21 Feb (KUNA) -- Kuwait today declared that it considers the decision by the Political Committee of the European Parliament to hold its forthcoming meeting in occupied Jerusalem to be a "grave" change in the attitude of the European Parliament toward the Arab causes.

Speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly Dr Muhammad Yusuf al-'Adasani has told the ambassadors of France, Britain, West Germany, Italy, Greece, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden and Denmark that Kuwait considers the holding of the conference in the holy city to be "a grave example of political bias against the rights of the Palestinians and Arabs and in contravention of the resolutions of the UN Security Council and the United Nations on Jerusalem and the Middle East crisis."

During his meeting with these ambassadors today, Al-'Adasani said: "The holding of this conference is also tantamount to an endorsement of Zionist views, since it comes in the wake of the Israeli actions against Jerusalem and Israel's declaration of Jerusalem as its capital. Furthermore, it constitutes a grave change in the attitude of the European Parliament as embodied in its Resolution 2728 adopted on 25 April 1980."

Al-'Adasani spoke of the Jerusalem problem saying that the determination of the status of Jerusalem "must be based on the religious dimensions of the holy places, particularly following Israel's decision to annex the Golan Heights."

MINISTER COMMENTS ON ARMS AID TO JORDAN

GF201803 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 19 Feb 82 p 1

[Excerpt] 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, Kuwaiti minister of state for Cabinet affairs, has announced that Kuwait and other Gulf countries will uphold their pledges to support the confrontation countries on all levels.

Answering a question from AL-QABAS on Israel news reports that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are undertaking to supply Jordan with arms, he said that these commitments have been clearly stated in the recommendations and resolutions of Arab summits. The minister of state said that except for these commitments, no other pledges have been made.

## SAUDI ARABIA

### OIL OFFICIAL DENIES PRODUCTION CUTBACK REPORTS

LD211010 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0950 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Riyadh, 21 Feb (SPA) -- Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz at-Turki, under secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, has confirmed that the kingdom's petroleum production is continuing at the maximum level envisaged, namely 8.5 million barrels per day. Shaykh at-Turki, in a statement to SPA, denied reports circulated by foreign news agencies saying that a decision has been made to reduce oil production to 7-7.5 million barrels per day.

### SECURITY AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH UAE, QATAR

#### UAE Accord

GF212048 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2019 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Riyadh, 21 Feb (WAKH) -- A UAE-Saudi security cooperation agreement was signed here tonight. The agreement was signed on behalf of Saudi Arabia by Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and on behalf of the UAE by UAE Minister of State for Internal Affairs Hamudah ibn 'Ali.

Following the signing of the agreement, the Saudi interior minister said that this agreement is similar to the agreement signed with Bahrain. It provides for the exchange of equipment, expertise and training and for the extradition of criminals and border cooperation.

The Saudi minister announced that a similar agreement will be signed tonight between Qatar and Saudi Arabia and that two other agreements are expected to be signed with Oman and Kuwait. He said these agreements will consolidate any comprehensive security agreement among the six GCC countries.

On the possibility of replacing passports with identity cards when GCC nationals travel from one country to another, the Saudi minister explained that this is being studied and is likely to be presented to the GCC interior ministers during their meeting in Riyadh.

In a statement following the signing of the agreement, Hamudah ibn 'Ali, UAE minister of state for internal affairs, described the agreement as being the crowning achievement of bilateral cooperation. He said the GCC comprehensive and unified security agreement is very important and necessary, since every member country is concerned about its security affairs. He said this concern is natural.

#### Qatar Agreement

LD220006 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2055 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Riyadh, 21 Feb (SPA) -- A security cooperation agreement was signed with Qatar this evening at the Ministry of Interior by His Royal Highness Interior Minister Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Qatari Interior Minister Shaykh Khalid ibn Hamad Al Thani.

The Qatari interior minister stated after signing the agreement that the agreement would regulate work between the Saudi and Qatari Interior Ministries and would consolidate the existing cooperation between them.

The most prominent points in the agreement, he said, are the exchange of information and the extradition of criminals in addition to [words indistinct].

The Qatari minister expressed his country's willingness to sign a similar agreement with any Gulf state to regulate work, if [words indistinct] from other Gulf states are there.

Interior Minister Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz expressed pleasure at the signing of the agreement. In a statement made after the signing, he said the agreement is the minimum of what ought to exist among the Gulf Cooperation Council states, but it is a pioneer step regulating a number of things including: cooperation between the Ministries of the Interior in the two countries in all fields; the regulation of the relationship between the border guards; combating infiltration and crime; the exchange of information in all fields and the extradition of criminals [words indistinct].

## PDRY

### SABOTAGE TRIAL CONTINUES; U.S. IMPLICATED

20 Feb Session

EA202230 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] The Supreme Court of the republic this morning continued hearing the case of the accused members of a sabotage gang arrested by security organs in Democratic Yemen. This morning the court finished hearing the statement of the second defendant, Masir Fadl Nasir, who confessed to planning to blow up a number of economic installations in the Aden governorate. He confessed to receiving theoretical and practical training in explosives, coming to Aden to reconnoiter petroleum tanks in (Al Qalluah), and then returning abroad to inform mercenaries and agents of American intelligence of the results of his reconnaissance. He said he then completed his training in explosives and returned to Aden for a second time to implement his crime -- setting off explosions.

The accused Nasir Fadl Nasir confessed that he and his accomplices received money from mercenaries in return for setting off explosions.

Specimens of explosives with which the defendants were trained were displayed before the court. Other pieces of evidence were also displayed branding [as heard] their involvement in the crime.

The court will continue its session tomorrow morning to listen to the statement of the third accused sabotage gang member.

21 Feb Session

EA212342 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] The republic's high court this morning resumed its open trial of the 12 people who conspired with enemies of the revolution and the homeland to carry out acts of sabotage inside Democratic Yemen.

The court assembled in full to try the third defendant, Ahmad Husayn Ahamd, and listened to testimony on his participation in the crime.

The defendant admitted that he carried out the acts of sabotage and gave an account of his movements. He said he joined the mercenaries and kept in contact with them. He underwent full training in sabotage and ways to carry out the plan of sabotage and destruction in the PDRY.

The counsel for the defense cross-examined him and asked about his social situation and his involvement in the crime. The accused admitted joining the antirevolutionary group and communicating in code with mercenary elements outside the republic.

The court also interrogated the defendant, 'Ali Abdullah Dahmash, whose statement to the court included references to his training in explosives, map reading, the use of a compass, [words indistinct] and how to carry out reconnaissance operations.

After reading this defendant's statement, the president of the court adjourned the session. The trial will resume tomorrow morning, Monday.

PARTY ORGAN PRAISES 'ALI NASIR'S TRIP TO CUBA

EA201932 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] ATH-THAWRI newspaper, organ of the YSP Central Committee, stressed that the visit of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the People's Supreme Assembly and of the Council of Ministers, to the Socialist Republic of Cuba and the meetings and discussions held during the visit will effectively contribute to developing the level of militant relations binding the peoples of the two countries and their two revolutions and parties, and strengthen the pillars and bonds of these relations along the road to achieving the great joint aims of the Yemeni and Cuban revolutions.

In an editorial published this morning, the paper said this visit is a continuation of the persistent and sincere efforts being made by the leadership of the two friendly parties and countries to strengthen the bonds of the principled militant relations binding the two peoples of Democratic Yemen and socialist Cuba who are united by their joint struggle against the enemies, represented by world imperialism and international reaction, to achieve the great joint goals of reinforcing national sovereignty and independence, achieving social progress and building a socialist society.

ATH-THAWRI also stressed the special importance of the visit in the context of the developments and victories achieved by the two glorious Yemeni and Cuban revolutions despite the circumstances surrounding them, represented by the feverish aggressive endeavors of imperialist and reactionary circles to conspire against the two revolutions and to prey on them because they represent a serious and direct threat to colonialist policy and their strategic aims.

These aims are represented by the plunder of the people's resources, imposing their hegemony by striking at national liberation movements and progressive and democratic regimes and setting up reactionary agent satellites revolving in the orbit of the imperialist circles at the expense of the radical national interests of their peoples who aspire to freedom, democracy, sovereignty, progress and peace.

GHALI DISCUSSES MIDEAST PEACE, SOVIET ROLE

NC220030 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has affirmed that Egyptian diplomacy will continue to work diligently after 26 April until a comprehensive, permanent and just peace is achieved in the area.

In an interview to be published in MAY's Monday edition, Ghali says the obstacles facing the peace process must be overcome through more dialogue and negotiation, adding that they must not stand in the way of constant work to achieve the desired objective. Ghali also declares that Egypt welcomes any rapprochment with the Arab states provided the rapprochment is not at the expense of normal relations between Egypt and Israel or at the expense of Egypt's obligations under its peace treaty with Israel.

Ghali notes a wide gap between Egyptian and Israeli views concerning the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He adds that this gap can be narrowed through more dialogue and by intensifying negotiations to reach an interim solution and not a final one that allows the Palestinians to start negotiations with the Israelis. He stresses that to achieve peace, we must not adhere to any timetable and that Egypt will continue to negotiate, no matter how long, until peace is achieved.

Ghali affirms that Egyptian diplomacy seeks a further rapprochement between the United States and Europe, as well as coordination between European and U.S. diplomacy to achieve a solution to the Middle East problem, because duplication of work or competition between the United States and Europe will be at the expense of the cause of peace in the region.

Ghali denies any intent to establish regional cooperation with Israel before a comprehensive, permanent and just peace is achieved in the area. He says that if peace is achieved and the Palestinian issue and all aspects of the crisis are solved, then there is no objection to further cooperation with the Israeli side.

Ghali notes that through its policy of nonalignment and efforts to reduce the possibility of confrontation between the Soviet and U.S. camps, Egypt can contribute toward security in the region. He affirms that Egypt does not want Arab and African land to be turned into a battlefield for a new cold war between the two superpowers, noting that in such a war, the Arab states and Egypt would bear the burden.

Answering a question from MAY on relations with the Soviet Union and the possibility of reconsidering Soviet participation in the peace process, Ghali says: We did not exclude the Soviet Union. On the contrary, from the outset we were careful to involve it in the peace process. This was represented in the invitation we sent to it to attend the Mena House conference on 26 September 1977. Moreover, Article 6 of the Camp David agreements stipulates that the UN Security Council will be asked to approve peace treaties and to guarantee that their provisions will not be violated and that Security Council permanent members will be asked to sign the peace treaties and to guarantee that their provisions will be respected.

Therefore, there is an invitation to the Soviet Union as a big five power to participate in a succeeding step of the peace process and to guarantee the agreements or treaties that will constitute a final solution for the Middle East crisis. We have not rejected the Soviet Union's participation in the peace process. The only difference pertains to timing, stage and the role of the Soviet Union after overcoming the initial obstacles. When we move from the first stage to the third and fourth stages, we will ask the other states, above all the Soviet Union, to participate in the peace process. However, we must not forget that the Middle East crisis has contradictory aspects, whether differences between the Arab states and Israel, among the Arab states, or at the level of the cold war.

Concluding, Ghali notes that Egypt adheres to a policy of nonalignment. He cites President Mubarak's statement that Egypt is an Arab and African state and not Eastern or Western.

'ALI REVIEWS AUTONOMY TALKS WITH U.S. ENVOY

NC211229 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has met with Richard Fairbanks, the U.S. representative in the autonomy negotiations.

The meeting was attended on the Egyptian side by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ambassador Tahir Shash and Ambassador ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid, who will take over as head of the Egyptian side in the technical committees on Palestinian autonomy after the departure of Ambassador Tahir Shahs in the coming months to assume the post of Egypt's ambassador in Vienna.

Foreign Ministry Official Spokesman Ra'uf Ghunaym stated after the meeting that a review was made of the progress of the autonomy negotiations and the problems facing them as well as the preparations for the meetings of the technical working groups, which are expected to resume their work at the beginning of March and the subjects which this new round is expected to discuss.

MENA has learned that this new round of meetings by the technical working groups will start at the beginning of March at Mena House in Al-Jizah and will last (?1 week). It will be the fourth round held by the technical groups. During this round an attempt will be made to narrow the differences between the Egyptian and Israeli views on a draft statement concerning the powers and jurisdiction of the autonomy authority. Egypt is of the opinion that the proposed Palestinian authority should enjoy all the powers and jurisdiction during an interim stage after which the Palestinians would have self-determination as provided for in the Camp David accords.

The U.S. envoy is scheduled to hold another meeting this afternoon with Ambassadors Tahir Shash and Ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid.

ISRAELI DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR BOUNDARY TALKS

NC211810 Cairo MENA in English 1704 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA) -- The delegation of the Israeli Military Committee arrived here today to attend the meetings which will open tomorrow between the Egyptian and Israeli sides to discuss the issue of the demarcation of Egypt's international borders and the executive steps of the final Israeli pull out from Sinai on April 25.

The Egyptian side to the meetings will be led by Rear Admiral Muhsin Hamdi.

The committee will discuss the demarcation of Egypt's international borders at Rafah in accordance with the 1906 agreement on the borders between Egypt and Palestine under the British Mandate.

It will also review the demarcation of borders at [Bi'r 'Tabah] area in south Sinai which is a bone of contention between the Egypitan and Israeli sides. The area is 600 meters long where Israel set up an hotel while Egypt insists on the border line of the 1906 agreement. Consequently the area will be under the Egyptian sovereignty and and Egyptian tourism company will but the hotel.

The committee will also discuss the executive measures of the final Israeli pull out from Sinai on April 25.

ISRAEL SETS TWO DATES FOR MUBARAK'S VISIT

NC192253 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA) -- AL-JUMHURIYAH says in tomorrow's edition that Israel has submitted two proposals on a date for President Husni Mubarak to visit Israel: either the visit will begin on 17 March or a week afterward. AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that contacts in this regard will take place to determine President Husni Mubarak's view on the visit and that the Israeli Ambassador in Cairo, Moshe Sason, has asked for an appointment to meet with the president to discuss the subject.

HAYKAL CLAIMS PLO SEEKING TO CONTACT MUBARAK

LD210836 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0739 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 21 Feb (KUNA) -- In a statement published here today, the prominent Egyptian journalist Muhammad Hasanyan Haykal has stated that the Egyptian president, Husni Mubarak, has received two messages from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Haykal did not specify when this took place, but said that in his messages, 'Arafat expressed the PLO's readiness to have contacts with the Egyptians anew.

Haykal's statement appeared in the Abu Dhabi paper AL-ITTIHAD, which said it was being published in conjunction with the London SUNDAY TIMES.

Haykal revealed nothing about the contents of the two messages. Nothing was officially announced either by Cairo or the PLO.

Haykal, imprisoned by President as-Sadat and released by President Mubarak on his assumption of office, said that King Husayn had also sent a message to President Mubarak in the same vein as 'Arafat. Nothing has been announced about the King's message by Amman either.

CHADIAN ENVOY ARRIVES IN CAIRO, CARRIES MESSAGE

NC210820 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA) -- Chadian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (Yanjibi Yasidi), the personal envoy of Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei, arrived in Cairo last night on a few days' visit to Egypt.

The Chadian minister stated after his arrival that he is carrying a message from President Goukouni to President Husni Mubarak.

He said that he will pay a similar visit to Sudan to deliver a message to Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri from President Goukouni.

'ALI: EGYPT TO RESUME RELATIONS WITH CHAD

NC211716 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1558 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has announced that Egypt has decided to resume diplomatic relations with Chad and to have the Egyptian Ambassador return to Chad.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali emphasized Egypt's eagerness to help the Chadian Government in reaching a solution to the Chadian problem that would strengthen internal stability and enhance the prospects of national reconciliation in Chad.

In a statement made after his 2-hour meeting today with Chadian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (Yangilbi Basiri), the deputy prime minister said that the Chadian minister communicated to him an oral message for President Husni Mubarak from Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei. Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that he will convey the Chadian president's message to President Husni Mubarak today.

Meanwhile, an official source has stated that the message which the Chadian president has sent to President Mubarak consists of two parts. The first part deals with developments in the internal situation in Chad. In the message, the Chadian side indicates that it is difficult to implement the Lagos and Nairobi resolutions on the Chadian problem, particularly with regard to the timing of the elections, the constitution and other matters. It also informs Egypt of the Chadian Government's decision to issue a general amnesty affecting all the Chadian parties and to allow all of them to return to Chad.

The second part of the message expresses the Chadian Government's wish to have Egypt support the efforts that are being made to stabilize the situation in Chad, for achieving a solution stemming from the wishes of the Chadian people and preventing foreign interference in Chad.

Goukouni Oueddei also expresses in his message the hope that Egypt's ambassador will return to the Chadian capital as soon as possible and that consultations between the two countries will continue on matters of interest to them.

The Chadian minister of state is scheduled to leave Cairo for Khartoum the day after tomorrow on a similar visit.

It is worth noting that Egypt had sent a Foreign Ministry counselor and a Sudanese Foreign Ministry adviser on a factfinding mission to Chad to discuss the preparation of new buildings for the Sudanese and Egyptian Embassies there.

GHALI LEAVES FOR ADDIS ABABA CONFERENCE

NC200732 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali left Cairo early this morning for Addis Ababa heading Egypt's delegation to the meeting of the African states foreign ministers conference which will start in the Ethiopian capital on Monday and continue until 1 March.

The delegation accompanying Dr Ghali incloudes Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ambassador 'Umran Ash-Shafi'i and Director of the African Department Ambassador Sami Thabit.

Dr Ghali's visit to Addis Ababa will last 10 days.

ASSEMBLY DELEGATION DEPARTS CAIRO FOR SUDAN VISIT

NC212324 Cairo MENA in English 2315 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (AFP) -- Speaker of the People's Assembly Dr Sufi Abu Talib and his accompanying delegation left here tonight for Khartoum on a 4-day visit to the Sudan to attend the inauguration of the new parliamentary session of the Sudanese People's Assembly tomorrow.

In a pre-departure statement, Abu Talib said that he will have talks with Sudanese officials to push forward integration between the two countries. Ibrahim Shukri, chairman of the Labour Party and member of the delegation, said that the participation is a continuation of existing relations between the Egyptian and the Sudanese assemblies.

MUBARAK INDISPOSED, CANCELS APPOINTMENTS

NC220819 Cairo MENA in English 0715 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak has cancelled his appointments this week because of his indisposition due to a cold, reports "AL-AHRAM" on its frontpage. The president is expected to resume his meetings next week.

SINAI MEETING SET FOR TEL AVIV 15 MARCH

NC191533 Cairo MENA in English 1435 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA) -- Meetings of the fourth round of talks of the Egyptian-Israeli joint higher committee on handing over the remaining part of Sinai to Egypt will be held in Tel Aviv on March 15. Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy premier and foreign minister, will lead the Egyptian side while Israeli Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon will lead his country's.

The committee will focus on the final measures of the Israeli pull out from Sinai as Egypt will regain international borders in accordance with the 1906 agreement. The talks will also deal with the normalization of the Egyptian-Israeli relations.

The meeting will be preceded by a meeting between Hasan 'Ali and representatives of the Egyptian ministries concerned with the withdrawal to approve all what has been agreed upon concerning the handing over of the remaining part of Sinai and the opening of Sinai as of April 26 to receive Egyptian citizens.

GHALI TO CONTACT AFRICAN ENVOYS ON MIDEAST

NC191341 Cairo MENA in English 1300 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA) -- State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali said today that he would hold contacts with the delegations taking part in the meeting of the African foreign ministers which will open in Addis Ababa on Monday.

The contacts will be made out of Egypt's keenness to conduct continuous consultations with the African countries and brief them on the latest Middle East developments, particularly on Egypt's efforts for achieving a lasting and comprehensive peace and the Palestinians' right to self-determination and to set up their own state, Dr Ghali told MENA.

He is to leave here tomorrow for the Ethiopian capital.

Ghali will lead the Egyptian delegation to the week-long Addis Ababa meeting and will also preside over a meeting of the Egyptian ambassadors to the Nile Basin countries to discuss means of cementing Egypt's relations with these countries in all fields. The ambassadors will report to Dr Ghali on the relations between Egypt and the countries where they are accredited, he added.

OCTOBER SAYS SULTAN OF OMAN TO VISIT CAIRO 6 MAR

NC201616 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1428 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA) -- In tomorrow's edition, the weekly OCTOBER magazine says that Sultan Qabus of Oman will visit Egypt on 6 March.

FRANCE'S CHEYSSON ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD 21 FEB

JN210913 Baghdad Ina in Arabic 0905 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Feb (INA) -- Claude Cheysson, French minister of external relations, arrived here this morning at the head of a delegation comprising officials from his ministry on a 2-day visit at official invitation.

Cheysson is expected to hold talks with Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi on bilateral cooperation, the current Arab situation and other issues of mutual interest. The French minister had visited the UAE where he held talks with officials there. The French minister was welcomed by Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, Foreign Ministry officials and the French ambassador in Baghdad.

Talks With Sa'dun Hammadi

JN211733 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Feb (INA) -- Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi met here today with French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson and held lengthy talks with him on bilateral relations and ways of promoting them as well as on the need to exert joint efforts to expand bilateral relations in all fields.

The two ministers reviewed several international issues of common interest and discussed developments in the Arab region in general and the Palestinian cause in particular.

Dr Sa'dun Hammadi reviewed the conflict with Iran and its causes. He also shed light on Iran's expansionist policies, ambitions and aggression against Iraq and the Arab countries and its war against Iraq on 4 September 1980. He explained Iraq's positive stands in support of international efforts exerted to reach a peaceful solution to the conflict with Iran in a manner guaranteeing both sides legitimate rights.

He briefed Cheysson on the great strides made by Iraq to complete its preparations for the seventh Nonaligned Movement conference in Baghdad next September.

Claude Cheysson stressed France's support for efforts to attain a peaceful solution to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. He expressed admiration for Iraq's efforts to render the nonaligned summit conference successful.

Stresses Nuclear Relations

JN212034 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Feb (INA) -- French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson has stressed France's desire to continue bolstering and developing relations with Iraq in all fields, particularly the nuclear one.

Cheysson, who arrived in Baghdad today, said he is carrying a message from French President Francois Mitterrand to President Saddam Husayn stressing France's strong desire to cooperate with Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Cheysson said Israel's refusal to sign the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and its refusal to place its installations under international surveillance is an unnatural matter calling for distrust. He said France was surprised at Israel's strike against the Iraqi nuclear reactor, especially since it was still under construction and since all protective measures were taken against its being used for military purposes. In this regard he indicated the surveillance carried out by the International Atomic Energy Agency. He said the Israeli air attack on the Iraqi reactor is an obvious violation of international law, something which France condemns.

Cheysson expressed the hope that Iraqi calls for solving the Iraqi-Iranian conflict peacefully will find willing ears so that a just peace guaranteeing both sides legitimate interests can be achieved. He said: We greatly hope to avoid seeing men die in war.

'ISLAMIC REVOLUTION' ON HAMAH, DAMASCUS BLAST

JN192106 Baghdad Voice of Arab Syria in Arabic 1955 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] A spokesman for the Islamic Revolution Command in Syria has stated the following:

A special contact was established with the besieged liberated city of Hamah on Sunday, 14 February, and the following facts were confirmed:

1. The mujahidin and the citizens as well as the military forces which joined them enjoy high morale. They are still in control of strategic suburbs and positions in the city, such as the following areas: Al-Hadir, the road to As-Salamiyah, far along the road to Aleppo, Al-'Ulayliyat suburb and part of Al-'Alamayn Street.

2. The main combat axes were as follows: 8 March Street, where there was heavy damage on both sides of the street in the north; the Al-Mahattah area, where resistance was very strong; and the airport area.

3. Destruction: four mosques, the As-Sa'ah building and government buildings were all destroyed because the Al-'Alamayn area was the scene of fierce clashes that led to the destruction of houses and buildings on both sides [of the street]. Many houses in the Al-Bayyad and Al-Mahattah quarters were damaged.

4. The weapons used in the battles: tanks, artillery and rocket launchers.

5. Among the repressive regime's losses: 70 tanks were destroyed in Al'Alamyan Street; Al-'Ubaysi bridge near the government house was destroyed; the governor's house was destroyed. The following were killed: The governor's brother; Abu 'Umar Talas, nephew of Mustafa Talas, who was in charge of the telephone exchange; and 'Uthman 'Ali, head of the revolution youth. All the following defense squad centers were hit: Aleppo Road center near Dabaj gas station, the old National Hospital Center in the Al-Hadir quarter and the municipal playground center. Defense Squad elements who survived the attack took refuge in the veterinary college, where the mujahidin continued to purge them.

6. Among the oppressive regime's crimes: A detachment belonging to the criminal regime near the sugar plant in Homs killed several citizens upon seeing their identity cards merely because they were from Hamah. Looting was also undertaken by the regime's elements. In the pockets of a soldier killed on the As-Salamiyah road 47 watches were found. The contents of destroyed buildings in the city were removed and stored in water company warehouses near the village of Bayrin.

The spokesman also stated the following:

In solidarity with the besieged, liberated city of Hamah and with the strike in the northern provinces, the mujahidin carried out a daring operation in the heart of the tyrannical regime's institutions in the capital Damascus. It was a great accomplishment to be added to the series of tremendous explosions carried out by the mujahidin against military or oppressive government targets. The details of the operation are as follows:

At about 1200 yesterday, Thursday, 18 February 1982, the mujahidin managed to get a car with a large explosive charge into a Information Ministry garage, which is used to distribute and load the regime's newspaper AL-BA'TH, whose offices are located in the lower stories of the 11-story building. The car blew up in a huge explosion that completely destroyed the newspaper's offices and inflicted massive damage on the higher stories. Ambulances and fire engines rushed to the scene. The regime also intensively mobilized its armed elements, besieged the area and closed the streets leading to it. The authorities admitted the great material loss and the destruction of a number of official cars. It passed to some news agencies a report on the deaths of 76 and injuries to 135. It then issued a statement attributed to the so-called Progressive National Front, which no longer has any real existence after the withdrawal of most of the organizations affiliated with it.

The statement attacked the Muslim Brotherhood and tried to obfuscate the obvious facts. The incident is so big that the oppressive authority cannot conceal it.

We draw attention to the fact that all the Syrian information media are nationalized and that the explosion was timed for all the authority's hirelings to be present. This target was chosen in the capital because it is the organ where dark propaganda is blared out against our people and their revolution inside and outside the country. We declare that the casualties are much larger than admitted or passed on to news agencies by the tyrant authority. We also warn all the misled and all those implicated by the regime so that they will correct themselves, abandon the tyrant and join the ranks of their people.

[Signed] The Islamic Revolution Command in Syria, 19 February 1982

STATEMENT BY ISLAMIC REVOLUTION COMMAND IN SYRIA

JN202038 Baghdad Voice of Arab Syria in Arabic 1935 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] The following is a statement issued by the Islamic Revolution Command in Syria to the sons of Damascus and the diplomatic missions there:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother compatriots, our mujahidin masses and glorious sons of Damascus: This is an appeal from your Revolution Command. We urge you to unite with your revolution in the fateful battle against tyrant Hafiz al-Asad. These are crucial moments in our history. Zeal and valor should be domenstrated. We are forging ahead toward settling the situation and liquidating this criminal and his clique.

We urge you to evacuate the streets to enable your brother mujahidin move freely. We seek to prevent the spilling of innocent blood. Therefore, we urge you to close your shops, leave your jobs and stay indoors because the fateful battle can no longer tolerate further delay.

Our brothers, sons of Damascus: On behalf of the Islamic revolution we announce that it is the time for general explosions in Damascus and we will face the tyrants everywhere. We will not give them a chance to escape. We are making the appeal out of our eagerness to preserve your safety, your sons, your present and future. We also urge you to resist the regime by boycotting it in all domains. It is your responsibility to cut off this regime's lifelines. This regime must be left along in the arena, since it has slaughtered defenseless people, fought against the nation's faith, violated its honor and torn the veils from dignified and honorable women. It is a battle avenging God's religion, sanctities and law. There is no force than can face this revenge.

The storm has started with God's help to uproot the last hideout of tyrants in one united Syria, with its capital, towns and countryside, its people and army. The lava of the volcano and the determination of our people will hunt down the regime's clique and agents and will wreck the hideouts this regime has been using as shelters throughout its black history.

The series of huge explosions that have shaken the capital city and rocked the regime's pillars are the best evidence of what we say.

Greetings of pride and glory to the mujahidin youth of Damascus who have dyed red the pure soil of the city.

For all that, we urge the citizens in general, and our brothers the Damascus resident in particular:

First, you must announce a civil mutiny against the regime. As of today, do not pay a single piaster to the regime. This is the fatwa by the nation's ulema. Any treatment with the regime will only lengthen its life, which opposes the religion of God. And incline not to those who do wrong, or the fire will seize you; and ye have no protectors other than God, nor shall ye be helped. [Koranic verse]

Second, you must close stores, shops, schools, universities, institutes, factories and all public establishments. Remember the 60-day strike that accelerated the end of the defunct colonialial regime. Your going on strike will certainly accelerate the defeat and disappearance of the tyrant.

Third, we call on the Arabic, Islamic and foreign diplomatic missions in Damascus. We urge you to be on the alert and advise your subjects to keep away from clash zones. We also urge you to break the imposed informational blackout and inform your governments of the details of the comprehensive popular revolution in Syria against a hated despotic regime.

Sons of Damascus, glorious people. Your revolution is just and will triumph, God willing. The tyrant has left no place for patience in your hearts. The nation can never tolerate the autocracy of an individual, regardless of who he might be, because divinity is for God and not for a slave.

The reign of despotism has come to an end. We have announced a comprehensive revolution whose slogan is: And fight them on until there is no more tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in God; but if they cease, let there be no hostility except to those who practice oppression. [Koranic verse]

May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

HAMMADI OPENS DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS CONFERENCE

JN221340 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA) -- Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi opened here today the annual conference of the heads of Iraqi diplomatic missions in the West European and socialist countries. A discussion was held on the working program of the Foreign Ministry and its missions abroad. The conferees also discussed ways of doubling efforts to implement Iraq's foreign policy so as to bolster Iraq's international relations.

The opening session was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretaries, the foreign minister's advisers, heads of Foreign Ministry departments and several other officials.

RAMADAN, 'ALI CONFER WITH UK TRADE MINISTER

JN201947 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1725 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Feb (INA) -- Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, met here today with Peter Rees, British minister of state for trade, who arrived in Baghdad early today. Ramadan welcomed the British minister, pointing out that this visit reflects a common desire to develop bilateral relations in the service of mutual benefit. He added that Iraq wishes to expand the participation of British companies in implementing Iraq's development projects based on reciprocity.

Rees expressed pleasure for Iraq's desire to expand the base of economic and trade cooperation with Britain, stressing the British companies' readiness to participate in implementing the huge development projects in Iraq. Ramadan and Rees discussed bilateral relations and ways to expand economic cooperation.

RCC Member and Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali also met today with Peter Rees. They exchanged views on means to strengthen trade and economic relations between the two countries in the service of mutual benefit. 'Ali gave a detailed briefing during the meeting on the development process in Iraq, explaining that the primary aim of Iranian aggression against Iraq is to obstruct development in Iraq.

RCC Member and Minister of Communications Sa'dun Ghaydan met today with Peter Rees and the British businessmen's delegation accompanying him. Bilateral relations and cooperation in the technical, transport and communications fields were discussed during the meeting.

REPORTAGE ON ADF, LEFTIST BATTLE IN TRIPOLI

Leftists Attack ADF Posts

NC191820 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Reports from the north this evening indicate that armed clashes have resumed in Tripoli between persons on both sides of Ba'il Muhsin and Bab at-Tabbanah. The exchanges, with various types of weapons, intensified around 1800. Precise details of the clashes are not available, but initial information indicates that fighting is raging between the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] and 'Ali 'Id's supporters, on one side, and members of the popular resistance, the Palestinians and the Iraqi Ba'th, on the other.

Two explosions this afternoon provoked these fierce clashes. It is still not known whether the explosions were caused by RPG shells or bombs. Moreover, it is not known who caused them. All that is known so far is that there were five casualties in the ADF ranks and that they were taken to the Zgharta clinic along with an unknown number of civilian casualties.

We have now received a report indicating that the battles are continuing between the ADF on one side, and the Popular Resistance and its allies, on the other. The report adds that the battles are ferocious.

My honorable listeners, I have just received a report indicating that at around 1850 tonight, sudden armed attacks began at the Syrian ADF posts in some quarters of Tripoli, that the battles were fierce in Mahallat az-Zahiriyah and Mahallat al-Qibbih and that some members of the (?24 October) Movement, popular resistance and Palestinian resistance participated in the clashes.

Clash Continues 19 Feb

NC200742 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] The intensity of the clashes in Tripoli eased after midnight while sniping and intermittent explosions continued. The evening meetings between representatives of the combatant parties led to no positive results. It was agreed to resume the meetings at 1030 this morning.

The fierce clashes continued until midnight. The most violent clashes were the battles that took place at 1900, 2030, and 2115 in the areas of Al-Mallulah, (Ba'l Muhsin al-'Ali), (At-Tabbanah), the municipal playground where the Syrian Deterrent Forces are concentrated, (Al-Qaddu), Az-Zhriya, At-Tall, and (As-Suwayada).

The scope of the rocket shelling expanded and some parts of the city shook as a result of the strong explosions which continued to be heard until early in the morning. It was not possible to assess the losses because of the continuation of the clashes and disturbances throughout last night.

These clashes started at about 1800 yesterday in (Ba'l Muhsin) and (Bab at-Tabbanah) between the Deterrent Forces and 'Ali 'Id's group on the one hand and the Popular Resistance and the 24 October Movement and some Palestinian groups on the other. At about 1900 armed attacks were launched against the Deterrent Forces positions in the city. The Syrian forces shelled the attackers, using all kinds of weapons. The shelling was intensive, especially in the Az-Zahriyan and Al-Qebbah areas.

## Tension High, Meeting Prepared

NC200849 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Extreme caution prevails in Tripoli city this morning following yesterday's fierce clashes in the areas of Ba'l Muhsin al-'Ali, At-Tabbanah, the municipal playground, Al-Qubbah, Az-Zahriyah, and (As-Suwayqah). The state of alert in the ranks of the combatant parties continues, and the sound of intermittent explosions and sniper fire at the open roads continue to be heard, completely paralyzing movement in the city.

In the meantime, preparations are being made to hold a meeting of the armed organizations participating in the clashes. The conferees failed to reach a solution yesterday.

According to the latest reports received by the Voice of Lebanon, Tripoli is witnessing large-scale armed manifestations, and bursts of gunfire, directed at the Deterrent Forces positions, are being heard in some quarters.

According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, the Deterrent Forces have adopted strict security measures in the areas of Shtawrah, Sa'd Nayil and Barr Ilyas, and they are subjecting the cars to a thorough search and preventing them from parking in certain places. These measures come in the wake of the clashes in the [Syrian] city of Hamah and the recent explosion in the Syrian capital.

## Cease-Fire Meeting Postponed

NC201105 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] A Voice of Lebanon correspondent reports that the meeting which was scheduled to be held at 1030 in Tripoli to put an end to the clashes taking place in (?Tripoli) has been postponed. He adds that the city is now witnessing heavy sniping, the streets are empty, stores closed, and the north capital seems in a state of full paralysis.

## Cease-Fire Agreement Reached

NC201221 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] We received a report from Tripoli a short while ago saying that following the meeting held by the security committee formed by the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, the Palestinian resistance, the Islamic bodies, the Arab Deterrent Forces and the joint command's Central Committee, the committee decided the following:

1. To halt the firing as of now, 1330.

2. To withdraw all gunmen from the streets.

3. To form observation committees to ensure the cease-fire.

Observer committees began work promptly. A detailed statement will be released later and we will broadcast it immediately.

## Truce Agreement Fails

NC201537 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] The situation has again deteriorated in Tripoli this afternoon. Clashes are continuing with various kinds of weapons in the areas of Abu Samra, Bab ar-Raml, At-Tabbanah, Al-Qubbah and Az-Zahiriyah, and the sounds of strong explosions are being heard throughout Tripoli, security sources report. These sources say that the city streets are completely empty of pedestrians.

## Beirut Officials Discuss Clash

NC201856 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Following his meeting with President Ilyas Sarkis today, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan made a statement to our correspondent, saying:

[Begin recording] The greater part of the meeting was devoted to discussing the security situation in Tripoli. We discussed the incidents there as well as the efforts being made to stop the deterioration in the security situation, because under these circumstances of increasing dangers and threats of the Israeli enemy, whether or not these threats are intended to intimidate us, are exaggerated, or constitute real preparations for some action, it is inadmissible to have a divided position. We must ensure a unified position that would enable us to confront all dangers. The latest reports we have received indicate that things are underway for a settlement and the return to normalcy.

We also reviewed the affairs that will be of interest to us during the tour of the Arab Gulf that I will begin tomorrow. Before my Gulf tour, I will attend the Arab interior ministers conference that will convene in Riyadh.

[Question indistinct].

[Al-Wazzan] The message deals with the topics we will discuss with them. There is no special message, but a discussion of the issues and general situation. Under these circumstances we can only continue consultations and discussions with our Arab brothers because we have declared that our option to resolve our issues is an Arab one. As long as the danger we are facing is an Israeli danger to the south, we must raise the question of Arab responsibility toward this increasing danger to the south. We must find out what can be done on all levels to ensure practical implementation of the agreements reached regarding a unified Arab strategy. This strategy must see the light and be implemented before the real danger sweeps over us.

[Question indistinct].

[Al-Wazzan] There is nothing new regarding the Arab Followup Committee. The date set for its meeting is still valid. We will welcome the Arab brothers when they come. [end recording]

## Fighting Slows

NC202019 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Efforts and contacts are continuing to calm the situation in Tripoli. Security sources said a short while ago that the clashes have halted. The appropriate security committees are seeking to contain them and to implement the agreements for the cease-fire and for the withdrawal of armed men preparatory to restoring normalcy in the city.

## Violence Erupts Again

NC211041 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] The cease-fire in Tripoli is being violated from time to time. The sound of intermittent shooting and bursts of machinegun fire is heard, particularly in the areas of At-Tabbanah, Ba'l Muhsin al-'Ali and al-Qubbah, rendering the streets in these areas hazardous because of the presence of armed men. At 0915 today, several RPG rockets were fired in the At-Tabbanah locality followed by intensive bursts from various types of weapons.

A security report received by the gendarmerie garrison in the north notes a violation of the cease-fire between At-Tabbanah and Ba'l Muhsin al-'Ali at about 1000 today where intermittent shooting was heard.

Meanwhile, the branch security committees which had been formed were continuing their efforts to establish calm and bring about the withdrawal of the armed men from the streets.

The At-Tall area and the streets leading to the port as well as Tripoli's southern approaches are witnessing normal traffic, while there is heavy congestion at the city's bakeries.

Battle Escalates

NC211533 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Security reports received from the north indicate that the security situation in Tripoli deteriorated this afternoon, particularly in Bab at-Tabbanah, where clashes are raging with various types of weapons. The appearance of armed persons has been noticed in the An-Najmah Square area, where intermittent gunfire is heard. Intermittent gunfire was reported from the At-Tall area as well.

Security reports also indicate that there is sniper fire in the Al-Qubbah area and that there is no traffic movement in the areas of Bab at-Tabbanah, al-Qubbah and the various areas of the clashes.

The security, political and local leaders are working to establish calm, to bring about adherance to the cease-fire agreement and withdraw the armed persons and remove the armed manifestations.

Clashes Contained 22 Feb

NC221132 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] A security report received from the northern gendarme company says that there were intermittent bursts of gunfire in (At-Tabbanah) between 1000 and 1030 this morning. The incident was dealt with on time through contacts conducted by the security committee with the combatant sides.

The report speaks of an increase in traffic at the northern entrance of Tripoli, especially toward the boulevard. There was an exchange of gunfire between armed people and security men near the customs building at the harbor. The incident was contained and no casualties were sustained.

Tripoli Calm, Damage Great

NC220756 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] While reports have been speaking about a fragile cease-fire in Tripoli and the deployment of forces from some organizations and parties in the areas of fighting, Tripoli showed this morning an atmosphere of fear following the casualties and the large-scale destruction caused in the various quarters of Lebanon's northern capital.

Meanwhile, leaflets were distributed in Tripoli and suburbs, calling for jihad against the ruling Syrian regime. The test of these leaflets was read in some mosques, particularly in the [name indistinct] mosque, which was under rocket fire.

The Voice of Lebanon has learned that several attempts have failed to form a committee of the warring parties to go to Damascus for negotiations with senior Syrian officials.

Yesterday afternoon the situation in Tripoli flared up between the Popular Resistance, on the one hand, and the Syrian deterrent forces, on the other. Various heavy and medium weapons were used in these clashes.

Although it has not been possible to count the dead and wounded because of the cordon laid around the areas of fighting, the latest reports say that there were more than 20 dead and 40 wounded. Security circles say that the loss of lives is much higher than given. This is in addition to the destruction, particularly in the Bab at-Tabbanah and Ba'il Muhsin areas, where the fiercest battles took place.

It has been noticed that a large number of Tripoli residents had left the city for various places in the north, while others took refuge in quarters far from the battle-fields.

In view of the deteriorated situation in Tripoli and Al-Biqa', the Syrian forces have reinforced their checkpoints and armed barriers in the northern border areas as well as in Al-Biqa', Ba'labakk and as far as Sibnay and Ash-Shuwayfat areas in the southern suburb of Beirut.

In the view of local and regional observers, the Syrian military activity took place simultaneously with events being witnessed in Hamah, Homs, Aleppo and Latakia [in Syria] in which some Syrian and Palestinian elements opposed to the Damascus policy on the level or another are involved.

## ADF Criticized, UN Meets

NC221001 Paris AFP in English 0919 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Beirut, 22 Feb (AFP) -- An uneasy calm has returned to Tripoli, capital of north Lebanon, after five days of confrontations between local militia and the Syrian-controlled Arab Deterrent Force (ADF), which have left some 20 dead and more than 70 wounded.

The fighting began on Wednesday with an isolated incident, followed by a tense but quiet Thursday. But the violence erupted again on Friday and continued through the weekend -- with two attempts at cease-fires lasting only a few hours.

A conciliation committee of the ADF, Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), left-wing National Movement and various local Islamic group representatives failed yesterday to separate the opposing parties, and heavy fighting was reported in several parts of Tripoli.

By evening, special mixed patrols had managed to take up peace-keeping positions at crisis points -- thanks mainly to contact efforts by onetime Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, a native of Tripoli.

Press reports here said the mixed security forces will today attempt to get the militia and all armed elements to withdraw from the city's streets.

But not everyone was satisfied with the conciliation committee's solutions.

A commander of the local Islamic Salvation Front militia group issued a press statement saying that the population of the port city of 400,000 people were becoming dissatisfied with the ADF, and calling for measures to counter this crisis of confidence.

The United Nations Security Council was scheduled to meet behind closed doors in New York tomorrow to discuss the Lebanese situation and the possiblity of increasing the strength of the UN interim force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Later, an open Security Council session could be held on the issue.

CONTINUED REPORTAGE ON SITUATION IN HAMAH

Clashes Continue 19 Feb

NC191312 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] We have received information to the effect that the city of Hamah is still completely besieged by tanks and artillery of the special units. Helicopters could be seen conducting intensive reconnaissance sorties over the city and nearby areas. In the meantime, sounds of shelling could be heard and fires seen in the narrow streets of the city. It has been reported that there were many casualties and that the Red Crescent could not enter the city.

In Latakia, the names of some of those who led the recent clashes within the navy have been disclosed. They are Col Michel Haddad, Lt Col Taysir Lutfi and Lt Col Lutfallah.

Reports from Aleppo say that an explosion occurred yesterday in the Al-Hindu suburb, north of the city, followed by bursts of gunfire and explosions.

Hamah Clashes, Damascus Blast

JN191845 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1820 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Citing arrivals from Syria, AFP said Syrian forces are continuing military operations in Hamah, but in a more temporate manner so as to minimize losses.

According to available information, it seems that about 400-500 Muslim Brotherhood elements are still resisting in Hamah.

Two organizations claimed responsibility for yesterday's blast near the building housing the Information Ministry and the newspaper AL-BA'TH's offices in Damascus. The first organization is the Fighting Vanguards of the Muslim Brotherhood [At-Tala'i' al-Muqatilah lil-ikhwan al-Muslimin], which declared that it is a dissident Muslim Brotherhood organization. The second organization is the Islamic Revolution Command.

Brotherhood Still Resists

JN200538 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0510 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] AFP cites travellers from Syria as saying that fighting in Hamah seems to be continuing, with more than 500 Muslim Brothers still resisting wearing military uniforms and using automatic weapons and mortars.

The travellers also report that columns of dense smoke were visible over Hamah yesterday but no artillery fire could be heard. It seems that the clashes are restricted to the old western quarters in Hamah, where some 20,000 are living. It also appears that many houses have been destroyed or damaged and that casualties sustained by both sides are huge. Syrian forces evidently tried to reduce the intensity of the clashes yesterday to limit losses, resorting to besieging the Muslim Brothers to force them to surrender. With the exception of the western quarters, the Syrian forces are apparently in control of the city. AFP also reports that the Syrian authorities have sent some 12,000 to 15,000 soldiers to contain the situation in Hamah.

Radio Commentary

JN202131 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Station commentary]

[Text] Those who follow reports broadcast by radios, transmitted by news agencies or published in U.S. or Western papers as well as in Israel or Arab countries, note that these reports are focusing on Syria.

Their mass media almost daily talk about what they term the domestic situation in Syria. The FRG newspaper, DIE ZEIT, which is known for its hostility to every Arab and for its blind partiality for Israel, expressed grief over the Muslim Brotherhood and criticized Arab countries because they stay silent and do not defend the agent Muslim Brotherhood gang.

The imperialist and Zionist mass medias are competing in fabricating reports on the situation in Syria. They are talking about matters that did not take place and will never take place. They cite names of towns and villages in news bulletins and reports when these are enjoying normal life and calm. Listening to these fabricated reports on his country, the Syrian citizen asks the following question: Why Syria in particular and why are they ignoring the criminal war being waged by the U.S. imperialist agents against the Salvadoran people? Also, why aren't they reporting the sectarian war in Northern Ireland or the participation of U.S. experts in fighting against the Salvadoran revolutionaries? Why aren't they reporting the scores of explosions in France and the crimes committed by U.S. agents against the Latin American people and liberation movements? The Syrian even asks: Why aren't those who claim to advocate freedom, democracy and human rights talking about the crimes Israel commits daily in the occupied territories and about Israel's defiance of international law and United Nations? Why aren't they talking about Israeli occupation of Arab territories and about the new Israeli threats to start a war?

The Syrian citizen knows the answers to these questions because he knows the identity of those who are launching this psychological and propaganda warfare within the context of their onslaught on the Arab nation and their attempt to divert attention from the wave of condemnation at the United Nations and from Syria's triumph in containing the imperialist-Zionist onslaught on the Arab homeland and in blocking the Camp David accords from infiltrating Arab ranks. However, psychological warfare has never managed to influence Syria's stands or the development of the situation in Syria, or to change the balance of power in this country.

When President Hafiz al-Asad said that there is no room in this country except for progress and socialism, he proved an objective and scientific fact based on the real balance of power in this country. All methods of psychological warfare and instigation, as well as all world radios, will never change the course of progress in Syria, nor will they turn back the wheel of history.

Our masses have passed sentence on the black reactionary agents linked with U.S. imperialism and Zionism, represented by the Muslim Brotherhood gang, and have wrecked their economic, political and social pillars. U.S. imperialism and Zionism will never be able to save the remnants of this agent gang from their inevitable fate, which is the fate of every traitor who makes himself a conduit for Syria's enemies.

The United States would be committing a terribly silly act, placing a losing bet and endangering its remaining positions in the Arab area if it thinks that through psychological warfare, interference in Syria's domestic affairs, instigation of the remnants of the crushed Muslim Brotherhood and a fabricated clamor about Syria, it can force Syria to ease its opposition to U.S. and Zionist anti-Arab designs. Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad will not be affected by threats and intimidation. Nor will it be dragged by promises, submit to pressures or make bargains. Plots and pressures will only redouble Syria's determination to continue its patriotic and pan-Arab policy, which embodies the will of the Arab nation and the masses and the interests of the broadest masses in Syria, as well as the interests of the Arab nation. Syria is strong in its intrinsic power, national unity, masses and revolutionary heritage. Syria is ready to sacrifice and pay the price of freedom and principled stands. Syria is strong in the masses of the Arab nation, which reject subjugation and capitulation. Syria is strong in the forces that oppose imperialism and Zionism.

These forces can greatly affect the course of development in the world. Those who declared pyschological warfare on Syria will certainly pay the price.

Information Official Reports

JN211855 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Commenting on tendentious reports repeated by certain foreign sources, an information official has said: We are used to not taking heed of false reports that embody imperialist and Zionist aims and their rancor. Yet, we affirm to them what they already know. And to reassure them that the agents in our country have no value and that only the people have value and power, we assert that Hamah is completely quiet and there are no acts of sabotage in it. Investigations are still continuing into the results of the search campaign which began immediately following the sabotage attempt by elements of the agent Muslim Brotherhood gang.

Public Support for Al-Asad

JN210818 [Editorial Report] Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic at 0415 GMT on 21 February and for several days after the outbreak of the Hamah incidents has been leading off newscasts with long reports citing cables from popular organizations, trade unions, societies and companies in various Syrian provinces expressing "strong indignation at the blatant U.S. interference in Syria's internal affairs," condemning "the crimes of the Muslim Brotherhood gang, the agent of imperialism and Zionism" and declaring support for President Hafiz al-Asad "in the struggle to defeat the imperialist-Zionist onslaught, to foil the Camp David conspiracy and to achieve the Arab masses' objectives of liberating occupied Arab territories and regaining usurped Arab rights."

The radio today in a 10-minute report cites cables from Idlib, Al-Hasakah, Al-Qamishli, Dayr az-Zawr, Dar'a and As-Suwayda'.

The radio has previously carried support cables from the Damascus, Latakia, Ar-Raqqah, Tartus and Homs regions.

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic at 0415 GMT on 22 February carries a 2-minute report on support cables from the Ba'th Party branch, popular organizations and trade unions in Hamah.

The radio says the cables condemn "the crimes of the agent Muslim Brotherhood gang" and express support for "the wise and courageous leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in the struggle against the plots of U.S. imperialism and the Zionist enemy." It adds that the cables also pledge that the people of Hamah are determined to continue "to hunt down the criminal and traitor agents to crush them and liquidate their dens." The radio then broadcasts the texts of the various cables.

ATH-THAWRAH COMMENTS ON U.S. CONSPIRACIES

JN200732 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0625 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Press review]

[Text] ATH-THAWRAH says our strong and cohesive national unity is the basis for our achievements, and when the United States realized that Syria had said no to all imperialist and zionist schemes, had translated this rejection into revolutionary action on the Arab and international levels and foiled enemy conspiracies one after the other by means of its heroic steadfastness and cohesive and strong national unity, the United States then resorted to blatant, open warfare against Syria's steadfastness and national unity, mobilized all means of conspiracy, psychological warfare and threats of aggression, including the remnants of the Muslim Brotherhood gang, the agent reserve of the CIA.

However, the United States has reaped defeat and disappointment this time as well, because the masses quickly and overwhelmingly responded to the new conspiracy and liquidated its tools.

Our masses responded with heavy blows on the heads of the Muslim Brothers, the agents of the United States and Israel, thus proving that they have chosen the revolutionary method to end the role of this agent criminal gang. Our national unity succeeded in dealing blows to conspiracies on the domestic level and liquidating its tools as well as in defeating external conspiracies and those concocting them.

TWO OPPOSITION GROUPS CLAIM DAMASCUS BOMBING

NC191834 Paris AFP in English 1824 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Paris, 19 Feb (AFP) -- Two Syrian opposition groups today claimed responsibility here for yesterday's bomb attack on a building that houses the ruling Ba'th Party's newspaper and offices of the Information Ministry.

One person was killed and 40 others were injured when more than 100 kilos (220 lbs) of explosives in a small utility vehicle were detonated in a parking area outside the 10-floor building.

Both of the groups which issued statements here claiming to have carried out the attack are Islamic fundamentalists opposed to President Hafiz al-Asad's regime.

One, the "Moslem Brotherhood's Combattant Avant-Garde", outlawed in Syria in 1980, said it was a dissident fundamentalist Moslem Brotherhood group headed by a 31-year-old former Syrian Army officer, 'Adnan al-'Uklah.

The other, the "Islamic Revolutionary Command", a mainstream Moslem Brotherhood group, was the first opposition group to provide information on the clashes early this month in Hamah, in northern Syria, between government troops and Islamic rebels.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES CABLE FROM IRAN'S KHOMEYNI

JN211945 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a cable from the leader of the Islamic revolution in Iran, Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni, in reply to the president's congratulatory cable on the third anniversary of the Islamic revolution. The following is the text of the cable:

I have received with thanks Your Excellency's cable on the occasion of the third anniversary of the Islamic revolution. There has been a recent increase in the world imperialist and international Zionist onslaught under the leadership of the criminal United States, which has mobilized all its resources with the aim of exterminating Islamic revolutions and defeating peoples fighting for freedom and independence. The United States worked openly to annex Islamic territories to agents such as usurper Israel and has brazenly protected aggression and the crimes of seizure and annexation. The current circumstances, therefore, require more than ever before Islamic unity and solidarity all over the world and a decisive Islamic stand to confront aggressors who have forgotten God and to expel from the region their protectors and the reactionaries who cooperate with them, such as traitor Saddam. This is a duty for all Muslims.

I hope that the dismemberment of the Muslims will come to an end and that they will regain their past glory through unity and solidarity.

MUHAMMAD HAYDAR CONFERS WITH POLISH AMBASSADOR

JN201555 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Damascus, 20 Feb (SANA) -- Comrade Muhammad Haydar, Ba'th Party National Command member and director of the Foreign Relations Bureau, received the Polish ambassador in Damascus here this afternoon. The ambassador said a delegation from the leadership of the Polish United Workers Party will visit Damascus as part of a cooperation program with the Arab Ba'th Party to exchange views on issues of mutual concern.

SHAMIR: U.S. INTENDS TO SELL WEAPONS TO JORDAN

TA211533 Tel Aviv IDF Radio Hebrew 1510 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] As a result of the consensus in the Knesset, the prime minister is proposing to send another parliamentary delegation to the United States, a joint Likud-Alignment delegation, in order to explain Israel's position against the sale of weapons to Jordan. At today's Cabinet session, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir estimated that an intention to sell weapons -- although at a later date -- to Jordan is indeed being crystallized in the United States. Our political correspondent Gad Becker reports:

This being so, again perhaps there is a possibility of sending a joint coalition-opposition delegation to Washington, although the chances of the initiative succeeding are not yet clear. The initiative is that of Prime Minister Menahem Begin, who raised the idea as early as his last week's talk with Shim'on Peres. Peres then promised a reply after consultations with members of his party. It appears that there are circles in the Labor Party who object to this additional demonstration of unity at the initiative of Menahem Begin.

Today the Cabinet heard a short report by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir about the latest contacts with the U.S. administration, contacts that were mainly conducted by the new ambassador, Moshe Arens. After the session, government circles repeated that a policy of selling weapons to Jordan is indeed being crystallized in the United States. Israel, the circles say, should prepare itself against this trend, even if it is a long term aim. Foreign Minister Shamir stressed that one of the people with whom Arens had spoken had denied the possibility of an arms deal with Jordan; at the same time, people in Jerusalem are also pointing to the beginning of opposition to such a possibility in the Congress. Within the next few days the chances and need for sending a parliamentary delegation will become clearer and a clearer plan of action will also be formulated by the Foreign Ministry.

HAIG'S REMARKS ON MIDEAST SHOW U.S. 'SOBERING UP'

TA210837 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Feb 82 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] Egypt would pay a very dear price if it abandons the peace process with Israel after April 1982, government sources said last night in the wake of the pessimistic assessments about the chances for peace voiced by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig and leaked to the Washington POST.

These sources estimate that the pessimistic tone discernable in Haig's remarks stems from his evaluations about the political situation that the United States will encounter in the Middle East after April 1982 rather than from his concern about Israeli-Egyptian relations. As these government sources see it, the U.S. administration is beginning to sober up from its illusion about tightening their relations with moderate Arab countries. These sources go on to say that the administration has begun to realize that friendship with Arab countries is a dubious matter. These sources estimate that Washington now realizes that Egypt had used it for the sake of negotiations with Israel (to exert pressure on Israel) but it is now beginning to abandon its friendship with Washington.

AMBASSADOR FAIRBANKS TO DEFINE AUTONOMY POSITIONS

TA191057 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Feb 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by 'Uzi Benziman]

[Excerpt] Yesterday -- with the report by Richard Fairbanks, Alexander Haig's special representative, that the United States has given up the attempt to achieve an agreement on the memorandum of understanding in the series of talks Fairbanks is holding in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv with Ministers Burg, Shamir and Sharon -- it emerged that Fairbanks will devote the next few weeks to an attempt to derive a precise definition of the points of agreement and dispute in the autonomy negotiations.

In Fairbanks' view, setting the negotiations on this new track could lead to a good result as it would prove that there is understanding between Israel and Egypt on such important problems as: the electoral system, certain authorities of the administrative council and so on. From what Fairbanks said yesterday it is not yet clear what he will do in the document to reflect the points of agreement and dispute. The U.S. administration knows that these points cannot be put together into a document that will be called an "agreement" or an "understanding" because Egypt will not before April support any document on the matter of autonomy that does not express its positions.

In a discussion between Fairbanks and Shamir, the guest said that he would try to accelerate the negotiations in the near future. Shamir wished him success. In the talks he held with Israel's working teams, headed by the director general of the Ministry of the Interior, Hayim Kubersky, the problems that have occupied the autonomy negotiations for the last 2 years were reexamined. Today Fairbanks is to meet with Prime Minister Begin. On 21 February he will depart for Cairo and from there he will fly to Washington.

Jerusalem sources estimate that Fairbanks' main target is to prove by this April that the negotiations are active. This is in order to decrease the risk of the creation of tension in Israel-Egyptian relations or of the development of a crisis on the Israeli-Lebanese border.

Fairbanks met yesterday afternoon with Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon. No details have been reported about the contents of the talk, but it has been learned that Maj Gen Avraham Tamir will go to Cairo next week to present the Israeli position in the autonomy negotiations to representatives of the United States and Egypt.

SHAMIR TO VISIT CAIRO, DISCUSS MUBARAK TRIP DATE

TA220807 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Israel's foreign minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, flies to Cairo tonight. He will be spending 3 days in Egypt, during which he will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali. Our political affairs reporter says Foreign Minister Shamir will be seeking firm Egyptian commitments on a number of issues. Ben-'Ami reports:

[Ben-'Ami] Mister Shamir wants to finalize the date for a visit here by Egypt's new president, Husni Mubarak. President Mubarak has talked, on more than one occasion, about such a visit. Press reports originally talked of a February date. Now mid-March is mentioned. But the Egyptians, despite their declared willingness, have still not agreed to any specific date. Mr Shamir would be seeking to pin one down while he is in Cairo.

Whether President Mubarak would be staying in Jerusalem or somewhere else has also to be discussed. But informed sources tell me that so far this is not being talked about, and they do not expect it to become an issue, despite press reports to the contrary.

A second topic on Mr Shamir's agenda will concern normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel, particularly regarding trade, tourism and cultural ties. Israel wants to have some specifics, and not only a general agreement, for boosting trade between the two countries. Most of Egypt's trade is done through government companies, and Israel would like to see some clear-cut Egyptian Government directives on getting business deals under way. There is also a desire here to get more movement into Israel encouraged among private and semi-public Egyptian institutions and organizations. There has been a stepped up flow of Egyptian officials to Israel of late, almost none from the academic, white collar and blue collar sectors.

Israel's foreign minister will also be seeking some firm answers on how Egypt sees the political process in the region and with regard to Israel after April and the final Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. Making progress in the autonomy negotiations will also be discussed. Egyptian officials have gone out of their way to assure Israel of Egyptian commitments to the peace process after April, as well as before. At the same time, Egypt is talking of closer ties with the Arab world; improving relations with the Soviet Union, and adopting a nonaligned posture. All this, the Egyptians say, can only improve Egypt's role in the peace process. U.S. secretary of state, Alexander Haig who was just quoted though, is expressing reservations about what Egypt's posture and goal will be after April. He hurried to deny the report, but in Israel and the United States, officials are wondering about the future.

[Announcer] Egypt's President Mubarak has influenza and has been ordered to rest by his doctors. The MAYO newspaper said he had cancelled all official functions until Wednesday. It is not clear how his scheduled meetings with Israel's visiting foreign minister will be affected.

Egypt has again repeated its view that autonomy is an interim stage that should lead to self-determination. This was stated to U.S. autonomy negotiator Richard Fairbanks, who is now in Cairo, after holding talks with Israeli officials in Jerusalem. Egypt's foreign minister, Kamal Hasan 'Ali, told Fairbanks, Cairo is prepared to continue autonomy talks after the Sinai withdrawal, but he again demanded Israeli confidence-building measures in the administered territories, to encourage the Palestinians to join negotiations. Fairbanks and 'Ali agreed that the new round of autonomy talks at the experts level would be held March lst in Cairo. An Israeli military delegation is now in Cairo to discuss the final phases of the Sinai evacuation.

Egypt's minister of state for foreign affairs, Butrus Ghali, has told the Egyptian paper MAYO, that Israel and the United States should begin a dialogue with the PLO. And Egypt's prime minister, Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, told Israeli reporters that a call for such negotiations is not a violation of Camp David. Muhyi ad-Din also said Egypt's interest in solving the Palestinian issue and in renewing ties with Arab countries after the Sinai withdrawal will not be at the expense of relations between Egypt and Israel.

The MAYO newspaper also said Egypt will launch a major diplomatic offensive after April, to affirm its commitment to a comprehensive Middle East peace. Egypt's Minister Ghali is quoted as saying, Egypt will be prepared to play the full partner with any Arab country that wants to join the peace process.

EGYPTIAN ENVOY INTERVIEWED ON BILATERAL RELATIONS

TA191132 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Feb 82 pp 1, 18 political supplement

[Interview with Egyptian Ambassador to Israel, Sa'd Murtada by Semadar Peri at the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv -- date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: When will President Mubarak come to Israel? One gets the impression that this visit is repeatedly being delayed.

Answer: The date has not yet been set for the visit but Israel and Egypt are negotiating it.

Question: President Mubarak is considered an efficient and thoughtful man. What is the goal he has set for himself on the eve of his visit to Israel?

Answer: The main goal is the very fact of the visit, which is aimed at removing all your doubts and apprehensions about the future of peace -- that is the main goal, not to remove the government's doubts but mainly to dispel the fears of the average Israeli. The visit will help convince everybody that President Mubarak is continuing President as-Sadat's initiative. If there is a difference in the implementation of the process, this is a different matter altogether; you cannot pretend that two different leaders should act as twins.

Question: President Mubarak has said that he is already dreaming about 26 April. At every opportunity, Israelis ask: What will happen after 26 April?

Answer: After 26 April the 27th and 28th of April will come -- that is, there will be a continuation. Whatever we accomplish by 26 April will continue, peace will continue, the autonomy talks will continue and the normalization will continue.

Question: You say that peace will continue and the normalization will continue. Are you still drawing a distinction between peace and normalization?

Answer: No, I mean that the peace process and the Camp David accords will continue and not merely the separate peace.

Question: Still, do you distinguish between the normalization and peace?

Answer: What do you mean by "distinction"? Israel and Egypt formulated two different documents attached to the peace treaty. The entire peace process, however, is indivisible because we also want to include the Palestinians in it. If we do not reach an agreement on the autonomy it will mean that a part of the Camp David accords will not be carried out and the Palestinian problem will continue. We must solve it because, when all is said and done, this is the stumbling block of the problem.

Question: Today we feel that the Egyptians have gotten used to the idea of peace with Israel but there is still strong opposition within certain circles -- including public opinion makers and influential people -- to the concept of normal relations with Israel.

Answer: That is because they believe that the second part of the peace treaty will not materialize. Here I must point out that there are people harboring strong doubts in both countries. There are people in Israel who say: "Israel gave up tangible things; it gave up the Sinai, the oil, the [Tiran] Strait: These things are palpable. What, however, are we getting from Egypt in return? Only peace."

That is the same thing skeptics in Egypt claim. They say: "We signed a peace with Israel but Israel suffices with giving us back the Sinai which is in fact our land whereas regarding the basic crux of the conflict -- the Palestinian problem, an uppermost humanitarian issue -- Israel is not ready to give anything. Israel has to date had the upper hand in conducting the peace process and, after all, Israel has annexed Jerusalem and the Golan Heights." As far as they are concerned, this is not fair play.

Question: Our talk takes place after the visit to Israel of the Egyptian minister of culture. We feel that the issue of cultural relations is one of the stumbling blocks on the road to implementing normal relations. Writers, artists and theater people refuse to cooperate with Israel.

Answer: I want to speak frankly about this problem. The Egyptian "rejection front" has no connection whatsoever with the feelings of Egyptians toward the peace. There are other reasons. One of them is the relations with the Arab world. These people have interests in the Arab countries: Writers publish their books and journalists write their commentaries there; doctors have clinics and lawyers have offices in the Arab countries and they might lose them if it is revealed that they cooperated with Israel.

Question: Well, then, we are going back to the linkage between normalization and the autonomy.

Answer: Do not forget that normalization does not apply only to writers, doctors or lawyers. Normalization is an issue between two countries and precisely on this matter I can present a long list of the achievements made in the last 2 years: exchange of visits, exhibitions, book fairs. Israel will open a stand in Cairo and will hold a permanent exhibition.

Relations exist and they have even been fostered recently to the extent that a journalist in YEDI'OT AHARONOT this week wrote that "they are really flooding us with all these nice visits." For my part, I am happy about it. The journalist, however, who wrote this comment believes that we are giving you a sleeping pill and he saw fit to caution there is no momentum in the autonomy negotiations. That is to say, he himself recognizes that the current state of affairs is not perfect and that peace is not complete without a solution of the autonomy issue.

Question: The article reiterates our sensitivity and apprehension on the eve of April. You have probably learned about these fears from your talks with Israelis. Is there sensitivity in Cairo on the eve of the withdrawal?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Do you still fear that Israel will not stand by its commitment and will not withdraw from the Sinai?

Answer: I take the words of Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at face value. All of them undertook to complete the withdrawal, in other words, to complete the last stage of the Camp David accords and to implement it in full. I have no doubt about it just as I do not harbor any doubts that the peace process will continue.

Question: Are you not drawing for us too rosy a picture?

Answer: I want to make a point. I have the feeling that there are people in Israel who think that relations between the two countries will be the best in the world, that trade relations will be a monopoly, that we will only sell to Israel and you will only buy from Egypt, that every Israeli will go to Cairo and write a book about Egypt and that Egyptians will come here to conduct research work on Israel. We will have a relationship, but it will be a normal relationship. The main purpose is that there should not be any unfavorable discrimination in the Egyptian-Israeli relationship.

Question: If that is the case, then what do you mean when you talk about "normal relations"?

Answer: We will occasionally hear about differences of opinion regarding the price of oil or goods and products that you will sell us or buy from us. Today, we do not have a similar problem with any neighboring country but it does not mean that relations are abnormal. On the contrary, differences of opinion also reflect normal relations and the main thing is that the parties should be ready to negotiate. An issue on which we do not agree today may be solved tomorrow or the day after, we have no time limit. We have had problems with other neighboring countries, such as the Sudan. The problems, however, have been solved all at once and now we have excellent relations with the Sudan. We still have a certain problem with Libya but I am confident that we will solve it.

Question: Still, as Israel sees it, if Egypt resumes its relations with the Arab states they will put pressure on Egypt to lower the profile of its relations with Israel to the minimum.

Answer: Had Egypt been willing to be susceptible to pressure, such a situation could have evolved a long time ago. We reject any pressure and we will not accept any situation whereby Egypt will give in to pressures by the Arab countries. We wish to improve our relations with them but not at the expense of the peace with Israel.

You have no reason to be apprehensive about the resumption of relations with the Arab countries. On the contrary, this is in your own interest and it should be a common interest of both Israel and Egypt. If we resume relations, we may bring around the Arab countries and persuade them to join the peace process.

Question: President Mubarak visited Oman this week as part of the effort to return to the Arab world. Sources in Mubarak's entourage reported about an enthusiastic reception.

Answer: Oman is an oil-rich country and it has interests and influence in the Persian Gulf. Oman, Sudan and Somalia today maintain full diplomatic relations with Egypt. When President Mubarak leaves on an official visit to Oman, a country neighboring Saudi Arabia, right after entering his post and his missions to the United States I attribute utmost importance to such a visit. This is connected with our relations with the Arab world. That is all I can say.

Question: How will the campaign to resume relations with the Arab world be conducted?

Answer: I do not know how he [Mubarak] will conduct it. On the other hand, however, our political trends are not secret; everything is open; we have nothing to hide. Relations with the Arab countries will resume on the condition that they adapt themselves to the new situation. The great achievement will be when the Arab countries reconcile themselves to peace and to normal relations with Israel.

Question: How are you preparing for the end of the withdrawal: Will there be any celebrations?

Answer: I do not think we have to hold ceremonies because every Egyptian will be happy in his heart. We do not attach great importance to celebrations, the main thing is that the entire Sinai is given back to us. On the date of the withdrawal every Egyptian citizen will feel that the huge barrier between both of us has been removed. We are now in a waiting position, expecting that barrier to fall -- and I am certain it will fall.

'ALI: BILATERAL RELATIONS FOUNDATION OF PEACE

TA191312 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Telephone interview with Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a on his return from Egypt, with recorded excerpt by Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali -- interview live or recorded 19 February]

[Text] [Anchorman] Husni Mubarak, the president of Egypt, will visit Israel in March Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali told a delegation of Israeli journalists, members of the Arab affairs correspondents' section, which returned from a visit to Egypt a few minutes ago. Our Arab arrairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a, good day to you.

[Answer] Good day.

[Question] Is this information, the announcement about the Mubarak visit, in fact solving the doubts, apprehension and uncertainty about the coming of President Mubarak, and it is now clear he will arrive here in March?

[Answer] Certainly, as far as can be understood from the Egyptian foreign minister's statement, President Mubarak will arrive in Israel most probably in the second week of March, after the visit here of French President Francois Mitterrand. The final date has not yet been set; most probably today, or perhaps tomorrow, Israel's ambassador in Cairo will meet with President Mubarak, and the exact date will be determined then.

This will, as you said, remove doubts, and this is actually the chief message that we are bringing with us after a long series of meetings with many members of Egypt's top echelons, including Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, number two in the Foreign Ministry, Dr Butrus Ghali, the minister of reconstruction, who is responsible for the development of the Sinai after 25 April, Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, and a long list of Egyptian ministers and top-level persons.

[Question] Did you ask, or was the question asked about the staying in Jerusalem in the course of that visit?

[Answer] Staying in Jerusalem?

[Question] While you were in Egypt, talk or rumors could be heard here of the possibility that Mubarak would prefer to stay in Tel Aviv, coming to Jerusalem only for meetings during his stay in Israel.

[Answer] That question was not raised, we did not ask it. I understand this will be determined in contacts between the two sides, but this is not the main problem. The main problem is that the Egyptian Government -- and not just the Government of Egypt; I think this is true of every segment of the Egyptian public -- is interested in transmitting a clear message to the people in Isreal that there is no need to be apprehensive about 26 April, because after that date no change will occur in the relations between Egypt and Israel, but to the contrary. What has been repeatedly stressed to us by all people with whom we met was that the relations will be strengthened, all problems of mistrust will gradually disappear. Egypt has undoubtedly a very clear political plan to return to the Arab world and, as they are saying, the Arab world will return to Egypt, but not at the expense of peace and the strengthening of Egyptian-Israeli ties. Perhaps we should hear one sentence out of Kamal Hasan 'Ali's statements:

[Recorded 'Ali statement in Arabic; Barne'a translates into Hebrew] There is no doubt that Egyptian-Israeli relations will be the foundation of relations between Israel and Arab states, when peace and stability is achieved in the framework of a comprehensive solution in the region, 'Ali says, and Egypt is therefore likely to fulfill a most important task in relations between Israel and Arab states. In the peace and normalization that have been achieved to date between Egypt and Israel, one will be able to see a basis for future relations between Israel and Arab countries. And, hence, 'Ali says, every one will understand the political, strategic and economic importance of a solution to the Palestinian problem and the problem of autonomy, as this should be the first step in the rapprochement between Israel and the other Arab states. These statements were, as I said, repeatedly stressed during all our meetings. Perhaps, 'Oded, just two more points.

[Question] In brief.

[Answer] We had a very interesting meeting with the minister of reconstruction, who will actually be responsible for the development of the Sinai after it is returned in its entirety to Egyptian sovereignty. We raised the questions that are being asked in Israel about the possibility of Egyptian-Israeli cooperation in the development of the Sinai, and the answer we received from the Reconstruction Ministry was: lay off with everything connected with the development of Sinai in the next 30 years. We Egyptians are ready for cooperation with Israel in any subject. Egypt is a large country, in every place in Egypt we are ready for cooperation on an equal basis, only not in Sinai. The Sinai happens to be a sensitive point, and under no circumstances will we be ready for cooperation with Israel on the soil of Sinai during the next 30 years.

Egypt, as has been mentioned earlier, has a clear political plan after 25 April, to make a clear political move toward returning to the Arab world, towards returning the Arab world to Egypt, with the intention to serve as mediator between Israel and the rest of the Arab world. The peace between Israel and Egypt will be an example for a form of peace or settlement likely to be achieved also between Israel and the other Arab countries. The Egyptian policy will affect the PLO too, we were told by a senior source. The relations with the PLO have never been severed, the Cairo-PLO ties, these ties will be continued.

And, finally, let us return to what we began with, President Mubarak's visit: A most high-level senior source told us that President Mubarak will indeed come to Israel in March, but under one condition: Do not commit any pranks, like the bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor 3 days after the late President As-Sadat and Prime Minister Begin's meeting at Sharm ash-Shaykh. Let there be no exercise of that kind before or after Mubarak's visit.

DEMONSTRATION IN RAMALLAH OVER BI'R ZAYT CLOSURE

TA201113 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Some 200 members of the Committee for Solidarity with the Bi'r Zayt University are demonstrating now in Ramallah's central square. In an initial report, our correspondent, Arye Gus, reports that the security forces used tear gas to disperse them. Many local inhabitants joined the demonstration.

The initiators of the demonstrations are distributing leaflets in the town of Ramallah, condemning the conquest and closure of the university. Five members of the Committee for Solidarity With Bi'r Zayt University were arrested about an hour ago in the course of a demonstration opposite the home of the head of the Judaea and Samaria civilian administration, Prof Menahem Milson.

Our correspondent reports that 30 members of the solidarity committee wanted to protest the closure of the Bi'r Zayt University and other acts of harassment of the university, such as the restriction orders issued against some of the student union body, confining them to their home towns. The members of the committee demonstrated opposite the house [where Milson lives] and refused to go away despite the demand of police. Only after five of them were apprehended did they leave the place.

Arrests Made

TA201320 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Military sources have reported that 20 participants in the Ramallah demonstration have been detained, but the initiators of the demonstration claim that the number of detainees is double that. They complain that the security forces used violence when dispersing the demonstration. The military sources have said that the security forces used tear gas because students from Ramallah high schools joined the demonstrators and threw stones at the soldiers. The sources emphasized that the demonstration was very brief. They claim that demonstrators who refused to go home and who violated the public order were apprehended.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that 40 members of the Committee for Solidarity With the Bi'r Zayt University are currently standing quietly near the Ramallah Israeli administration building, protesting the arrest of their colleagues. Earlier, five others were arrested while demonstrating opposite the home of the head of the Judaea and Samaria civilian administration, Professor Milson.

Arrested Demonstrators Released

TA201430 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] All arrested demonstrators in Ramallah were released a few minutes ago. this is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus. They are members of the solidarity committee with the Bi'r Zayt University. Security forces dispersed the demonstration within a short time, using tear gas after Ramallah students joined the demonstrators and threw stones at the soldiers.

BI'R ZAYT DEMONSTRATORS STONE IDF PATROL

TA212014 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Today disruptions to studies and breaches of the peace continued in several towns in Judaea and Samaria, to protest the closing of the Bi'r Zayt University. In Bi'r Zayt itself rioters threw stones at an IDF patrol. Nobody was harmed and no damage was caused. In Ramallah, Al-Birah and Jericho, students tried to block traffic arteries and fly Palestinian flags. The security forces dispersed the students. In Nabulus students broke windows and furniture in their school when their teachers did not permit them to go out to demonstrate.

DISTURBANCES IN HEBRON DURING MINISTER'S VISIT

TA221044 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] There were disturbances of order in Hebron this morning and stones were hurled at vehicles. Deputy Prime Minister and Housing Minister David Levy this morning visited the Jewish quarter in Hebron and in Qiryat Arba'. He promised the settlers his ministry will do everything possible to execute housing projects planned for next year, including the development of Giv'at Haharsina and construction of sport installations.

MITTERRAND MAY MEET WEST BANK ARABS DURING VISIT

TA220930 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] The east Jerusalem paper AL-QUDS reports this morning that the French Consulate in Jerusalem is trying to initiate a meeting between notables from Judaea and Samaria and President Mitterrand during the latter's visit in Israel. The paper reports that institutions and bodies in the territories intend to submit to the French president a memorandum about Israel's attitude to the Arab residents. The French consul general visited Nabulus yesterday and met with Mayor Bassam Shak'ah.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL MEETS WITH DRUZE LEADERSHIP

TA200815 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Our correspondent, Yo'el Dar, has learned that the first meeting between a Defense Ministry representative and Druze inhabitants was held recently in the Golan village of Mas'adah. They sought a way to end the general strike there. The meeting was attended by some Syria sympathizers as well as heads of local councils and clerics. The Defense Ministry official made it clear to the Druze that the Cabinet demands that they maintain peace and quiet, accept the law of the state and obtain Israeli identification cards. The Druze demanded that the four administrative prisoners be released, that family members from Syria at the border point be conducted again and that the Defense Ministry issue a written guarantee that the Golan Druze would not serve in the IDF. Some Druze said that after these demands are met they might be prepared to carry Israeli identification cards, but would still refuse to accept Israeli citizenship.

STRIKING DRUZE STEP UP SCAB SUPERVISION

TA201211 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Excerpt] The strike in the Golan Druze villages is getting worse. Our correspondent, Yo'el Dar, reports that the organizers of the strike -- clerics and supporters of Syria -- decided last night to revoke the permit granted when the strike first broke out to merchants to open their businesses for 2 hours a day in order to allow the residents to purchase food and other vital commodities.

Similarly, the supervision of the scabs was stepped up and yesterday only very few Golan workers showed up in their places of employment in the upper Galilee and the Hula Valley. The Golan initiative committee, active within the green line as part of Hadash, has announced its support for the strike.

DRUZE CLERGY IMPOSE SOCIAL BOYCOTT ON RAKAH

TA210557 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] The Golan Druze clergy have imposed a social and religious boycott on communists who are RAKAH members. So far, the boycott has been in force only on recipients of Israeli identification cards. Our correspondent, Yo'el Dar, was told that the boycott was imposed after the clergy learned that the influence of Golan communists has increased, and it is liable to harm the Druze social structure. The Druze strike on the Golan Heights is continuing today -- its eighth day. Druze representatives are due to meet again today with a Defense Ministry representative to examine possibilities of ending the strike.

GOVERNMENT TO HOLD HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSION ON STRIKE

TA212020 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Excerpt] The senior official who negotiated with the representatives of the Golan Heights Druze at the end of last week, Nahman Lev, was working on a private mission for the prime minister and not as a representative of the Ministry of Defense. This was learned this evening by our correspondent Gil Sadan. Nothing has to date come from those negotiations and the strike is continuing there. It appears that as a result of the contacts held by the prime minister's representative, a senior-level discussion will be held on how to cope with the problem and what body should do so. The director general of the prime minister's office, Matityahu Shmu'elevitch, is collecting information on the issue and within the next few days he will present it to the prime minister in order to decide who should handle the issue. This evening the Defense Ministry spokesman reported that since Israeli law was applied to the Golan Heights, the ministry has not been dealing with Druze affairs there.

COMMUNISTS IN TERRITORIES SEEK PLO ACCEPTANCE

TA211317 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] The new Communist Party in the territories wants to be accepted into the Palestinian National Council, which is a kind of PLO parliament. This has been learned by our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari from Arab sources in the territories. So far, the PLO has refused to allow the communists in the territories to join the Palestinian Council, because they were considered to be members of the Jordanian Communist Party and also because the PLO disapproved of their political path. The PLO favors an armed struggle, whereas the communists believe in a political struggle; the PLO does not accept UN Resolution 242, whereas the communists accept it.

## LIBYA

### ANTI-IMPERIALIST GROUP HOLDS MEETING IN TRIPOLI

LD202156 Tripoli JANA in English 1735 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Feb (JANA) -- The meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the International Platform [Forum] Against Imperialism, Zionism, Racism and reaction starts in Tripoli today.

The meetings will be attended by delegations representing some countries and international organisations.

The committee will focus its discussion on the current situation in different parts of the world and imperialist-Zionist activities against various people's freedom.

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great al-Fateh Revolution said in his address to the International Conference for Solidarity with the Libyan people on 31st August 1981 that "According to the declaration of people's authority in March 1977, the Libyan people who committed themselves to defend causes of freedom, will accept without hesitation the jamahiriyah's transformation to a centre for international resistance against imperialism, Zionism, racism and reaction. The Libyan people will take this responsibility courageously and honourably."

The conference called upon liberation movement representatives and all participants to discuss Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's initiative and to take the necessary steps in this respect.

The foreign minister of Madagascar and his delegation and the Algerian delegation arrived here on Friday [19 Feb] to take part in the committee meeting. The representatives of the Cypriot Socialist Party, the Greek Socialist Party and the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee also arrived in Tripoli yesterday.

### Al-Qadhdhafi Makes Speech

LD211248 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1125 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Speech by Head of State Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at opening session of Preparatory Committee of International Forum Against Imperialism, Zionism, Racism and Reaction in Tripoli 21 February -- live]

[Text] Honorable members of the preparatory committee, I welcome you and praise you for shouldering your struggle duty by meeting here today to prepare for the International Forum Against Imperialism, Racism and Reaction, in accordance with the resolution of the World Conference of Solidarity With the Libyan People which was held [date indistinct] 1981 to express solidarity with the Libyan people against the direct American military aggression.

Gentlemen, for more than 180 countries and over 240 organizations worldwide to choose Libya as an international forum for combating imperialism, racism and reaction is a great honor which makes our people feel extremely proud. It is also a medal of courage and pride pinned on the chest of every Libyan man and woman. In addition to that, it is a great trust placed in the Libyan people by these peoples and organizations. It is also a heavy responsibility for Libyan men and women, which they must carry courageously and heroically.

In their declaration of the establishment of their historic authority, the Libyan people recorded their adherence to freedom and their readiness to fight for it in their own land and to provide protection for the oppressed fighters for freedom elsewhere in the world. The Libyan people have become the only sovereign people, for they rule themselves by themselves. The Libyan people have set up a jamahiri society which is extensively self-run, without a government or proxy for the masses. Hence the Libyan people deserve to have their land become an international forum for combating imperialism, racism and reaction. [applause]

American imperialism and its agent -- reaction -- have most insolently and arrogantly revealed their unjust and aggressive policy against the independence of Libya and the sanctions of its borders in a flagrant defiance of Libyans' national choices in their own national territory. This oppressive challenge by the arrogant and power maniacs such as that trivial midget, the American President, and his small minded servants who are still even more trivial and disgraceful, and the racist Zionists and cowardly reactionaries, will most certainly be countered, and I promise you here most solemnly, by a stubborn resistance. One million Libyans, the majority of whom are students, workers, peasants and civil servants of both sexes, will leave their schools and turn their factories and farms and even their offices and homes into trenches for resistance. [prolonged applause]

The barbaric military campaigns which these maniacs, the enemies of peoples, are preparing for, will founder on the rock of the popular resistance of the armed people and will end in complete failure on the Libyan front.

Honorable members of the preparatory committee: I have given you this assurance so that your confidence in my country will become stronger and so you may rest assured that it is prepared to shoulder the responsibility of becoming an international forum to combat imperialism, racism and reaction and that it is worthy of all this international trust and this honor.

Now I will explain to you my views, which I hope will help you in preparing for this great new act of struggle:

1. The first result of the selection of Libya as the world forum against imperialism, reaction and racism is that it should be the leader of this resistance. But in my analysis, and to be objective, it must be said that the socialist camp led by the USSR is most certainly capable of resisting the United States and its allies in defense of that same socialist camp. In other words, the Warsaw Pact is the deterrent that would face NATO in the event of direct confrontation. Hence, my country and the other peoples represented here do not claim for themselves the leadership of the world resistance including that of the socialist camp. We will, however, undoubtedly stand by our friends.

2. For Libya to become an international forum for world resistance means that Libya will be the commander of this resistance, but not of the whole resistance as such. This means that the fight against imperialism will be the task of all the oppressed people who join this international forum and thereby indicate the start of the cohesion of their struggle under its banners.

3. This means the birth of the unity of struggle of all the peoples exposed to aggresion of imperialism and its tools: racism and reaction. It must be clearly understood that this also means that from the day of the establishment of this forum, the struggle of these peoples will assume a new legitimate character: the legitimacy of unity on all fronts and in all fields. More clearly and more precisely, this means the fighting in El Salvador, for example, will become an international struggle among all the peoples and organizations in this forum and the rightist fascist forces supported by American imperialism.

In practice, this means all the peoples and organizations which attended the Conference on Solidarity with the Libyan People last August and decided to set up this forum must send fighters and reinforcements to the people of El Salvador. The same thing applies to Guatemala, Chile, Palestine, Namibia, South Africa and the Sahara, where actual fighting is raging now, and where the national forces are clashing with the tools of imperialism, Zionism, racism and rightism. This also means that any aggression by imperialism or any of its tools against any of these independent peoples participating in this forum shall constitute aggression against all these peoples and organizations, and consequently they must send fighters and reinforcements immediately to fight on the side of the people attacked.

The peoples and organizations constituting this forum must prepare themselves for direct participation in checking the likely aggressions against LIbya, Nicaragua, Cuba, Angola, Syria and Lebanon. These are all independent peoples but their independence is being threatened by imperialism and racism.

The peoples and organizations of this forum should also support each other in facing any problem or crisis that might develop against one of them, some of them or all of them, -- be it political or economic -- resulting from the aggressive policy of imperialism or its tools.

Honorable members of the preparatory committee. We would have liked to see China with us here, for it is qualified, as a member of the Third World, to play an effective and deterrent role in checking the imperialist and racist forces. China was set to play this role for the good of the national liberation of peoples and organizations in the days of Mao Aedong and Zhou Enlai. China is in a significant position because it falls within the sphere of Afro-Asian solidarity which is in alliance with Latin America. If China were to place its weight on the side of the struggle of these peoples, it would have given it a great effectiveness. Hence, it is wise and useful to leave the door open for China to join this forum when it decides to sever its ties once and for all with the imperialist forces who are opposed to the peoples of this forum.

Honorable members of the preparatory committee, if your forthcoming conference, for which you are now preparing, were to adopt these principles, then a new era would be born and a new world would be created -- a world created by the forces of peoples who are determined to live free and, for the sake of achieving this objective, to inflict a final defeat on imperialism, reaction and racism. The routing of evil which is embodied in imperialism and its tools, becomes certain if we succeed in creating this new world. March forward. The struggle will continue.

## SUDAN

### NUMAYRI SPEAKS TO ASH-SHAJARAH MILITARY GROUP

EA191850 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1980 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Field Marshall Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the republic and supreme commander of the people's armed forces, at 0830 this morning met officers, NCO's and soldiers of the Ash-Shajarah area [Khartoum District] as an extension of his excellency's inspection visits to military units as defense minister and commander-in-chief of the people's armed forces.

At the beginning of his speech, his excellency stressed that the people's armed forces have always been protectors of the homeland and its unity. In addition, they are partners in the country's development and its progress through their assumption of development tasks.

This is what has made them a leading body. His excellency reaffirmed that the General Command's policy in the coming stage is to attend to the military individual and raise his morale so that he may get out to fulfill the tasks entrusted to him.

His excellency then spoke about development projects. He said true development is not factories which produce or lands which are cultivated, it is the social change and cultural advancement which those projects inculcated in rural man through the health and educational services provided for him. This is the first aim of the revolution. Therefore, decentralization is the ideal method of government so that regions may develop through their own (?resources) and through their inhabitants who are able to make a contribution.

NUMAYRI ADDRESSES SSU BODY ON INTERNAL ISSUES

JN202042 Khartoum SUNA in English 1950 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Feb (SUNA) -- President Numayri addressed this evening the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU) house group and outlined the mission of the current phase and programme of work.

President Numayri said that his meeting with them came in an encouraging phase in which the prosperity was not any more a dream and that his meeting with them coincides with the completion of achievements and mutation realization.

The meeting coincides with a phase in which it is conceived that the world would not help those who would not help themselves that the basic condition for any help is the investment and production.

President Numayri called for the direction of action, in this phase, towards the building of a unified and integrated state and a nation that can not be dispersed by innovations of ideas, and differences of races, areas or cultures.

This is the phase of facing the truth, president said, which confirms day by day that Sudan is a target whose conspirators are racing time to undermine its unity. But the unified Sudan will stay resisting all ambitions, he added.

President Numayri also expressed a new conceptualization of the responsibilities of the members of (SSU) house group in the current phase in which he said that differences outside the house hall were not only legal but also should be encouraged but inside the hall differences are a negligence to a commitment to the group.

Numayri added that the SSU house group should become as a stream of the political orgnaization an expression of its thoughts and defence of its goals in realization to its policies and programmes.

President Numayri said that the current phase which Sudan is now witnessing is a phase in which entities could be destroyed and countries to be divided.

He gave an example of the war-torn Chad and Lebanon which is the target of a civil war along with the warring between Iraq and Iran.

NUMAYRI VIEWS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, OTHER TOPICS

GF211135 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 20 Feb 82 pp 1, 6

[By Ba Bakir Hasan Makki]

[Text] Khartoum, Feb. 19 -- President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri of Sudan today said execution of the current budget would incur a deficit of 650 million dollars in the balance of payments position.

"This is mainly because of a rather bad cotton production last year," he told the ARAB TIMES in an exclusive interview.

He added that creditors said they could not continue helping Sudan while the government still offered subsidies for such items as sugar, wheat, gas, medicine, flour, education and health, which were provided free of charge. The president said he realised it was a mistake to offer the subsidy.

"We tried to increase our exports and include other items, for which purpose we had to boost production, namely sesame, corn, glue, vegetables, meat, etc. Three-quarters of the hard currency from the exports went for the gas subsidy." He said that sugar production increased to 300,000 tons, which was 50,000 tons more than required for local consumption. "But our neighbouring countries -- Uganda, Chad, Central Africa and Ethiopia -- depend on the Sudan for their sugar needs. They do not have sufficient hard currency," he added. The sugar factories have been operating for about two decades. "They are in great need of repairs. We will subsidise their production," he said.

The president said that the railway network still needed a subsidy. But the petrol subsidy was stopped. "We must think of appropriate ways of doing the same for flour without arousing the feelings of our sensitive people. We have to, one way or antoher!" he said.

He said a large part of the economic program had been carried out in a bid to correct the commercial and balance of payments situation, as well as projects and factories' repairs.

The president said that he had therefore "obtained approval of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, some Arab funds and some of the countries with which Sudan has bilateral relations. He said that about 350 million dollars had gone to the Jazira and other projects last year. The sugar factories expected to get 120 million dollars for repairs from the Arab funds.

The balance of payment last year received subsidy from IMF, the Arab fund, and Saudi Arabia, which contributed a great deal. West Germany, England and Holland agreed to write off the loans taken by Sudan. Other countries agreed to restructure the debts.

President Numayri said he was now 51 years old, while the average age in Sudan was 47.

"We have accomplished development projects worth about 21 billion dollars despite our poverty. I am not afraid of death! My death does not mean the decline of our unique democratic, socialist experience," he said.

The president blamed the exaggerated luxury sought by the Sudanese people. They smoked expensive foreign cigarettes, held costly parties for minor occasions such as a circumcision, owned cars, land, etc. "What shall we leave for the future generations if such demands are fully met? We have to strike a careful balance between real income and aspirations," he said.

President Numayri said the finance minister made a tour of some friendly countries recently to explain the measures taken to correct Sudan's economic policy. All parties concerned said that the present trend in Sudan was a 100 percent correct and would help turn it into a developing and not underdeveloped one shortly. "We are therefore adamant about pursuing our new plans," he continued.

President Numayri said he also criticised the shortcomings of some performances. Consequently some people believed the whole experiment was a complete failure.

He affirmed that the "Socialist Union" was the only successful organisation. It pioneered the drafting of the constitution, establishment of the state organisations and the local government. Members of the union were on the spot all over the country. There were not those "secretaries" at the head office in Khartoum. They numbered four to five million. "This rate of membership, in relation to the total population, exceeds that of the Soviet socialist party. There was a committee to revise the experiment and devise solutions for any shortcomings. The experiment of the Socialist Union will continue to be successful.

President Numayri said: "My door is wide open for any caller, sometimes without prior appointments. Our democracy protects and does not threaten any citizen, even he who criticises me in public." He added that some relatives and friends, who happened to see him from time to time just called him "Ja'far" without titles.

"I go on the streets and meet with ordinary people in my district (Wachobawi) every day. It is the Socialist Union that brought about all such and other gains for the country," he said.

Thanks to the Socialist Union there was a new part for the armed forces, the police, etc., to play. They now contributed towards the supreme national interest as did other normal citizens, he said.

President Numayri said he had not dissolved the Socialist Union but only the higher organisation as the Politburo.

"In some European socialist countries members of the Politburo are almost idolised by the people. In an Arab country I refused to call on a paramount partisan. Why should I see him while he is not a state figure?"

The president said he did not have a special doctor or a special barber. "I am a poor head of state to the extent that some of the cheques I write to collect my salary are sometimes returned unpaid due to shortage of funds. My family leads the life of an ordinary citizen. The same applies to all my ministers," he said.

He predicted that the Egyptian-Sudanese integration was going to witness a remarkable push forward during the term of President Husni Mubarak. "We have agreed to start small projects within pounds 200,000. They will secure planting of 300-400 feddans of vegetables or livestock feed."

President Numayri said he called for an end to the current Iraqi-Irani war. But both parties maintained different viewpoints. Iran insisted Iraqi forces should pull out of their lands, while Iraq wished to achieve the objectives of the war. It would take some time to settle.

## ETHIOPIA

### GOVERNMENT, GUERRILLAS CLASH IN ERITREA

NC201914 Paris AFP in English 1903 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Feb (AFP) -- Fighting is raging on all fronts in Eritrea between guerrilla forces fighting for the province's independence and Ethiopian Government troops, a spokesman for the Eritrean People's Liberation Front said today.

In the last two days, the guerrillas have killed 400 government troops, wounded 550 others and captured two in heavy fighting on the northeastern Sahel and Barka fronts, the EPLF spokesman said here.

No figure was given for losses by the guerrillas, who are fighting a major offensive by the Ethiopian Government.

The EPLF spokesman said Ethiopian Air Force planes and helicopters were running day and night bombing missions on guerrilla positions together with tank and heavy weapons assualts.

Despite the scale of the offensive, the government troops had not advanced and no change in the military situation had taken place, he said.

On the northeastern Sahel front, the guerrillas killed 200 government troops, wounded 250 others and took two prisoner. They also captured 79 medium and light weapons and three RPG anti-tank guns, the spokesman said.

On the Barka front, the spokesman added, the guerrillas killed 200 Ethiopian troops, wounded 300 others and captured a "large quantity" of material.

In southern Eritrea, near the town of Senafe, units of the EPLF's military wing, the Eritrean People's Liberation Army (EPLA) attacked Ethiopian troops, inflicting "heavy losses", the spokesman said, but gave no figures. They enemy retreated leaving behind dead and wounded, he said.

Also over the same two-day period, an Ethiopian Air Force MIG-23 was hit by guerrilla anti-aircraft fire before crashlanding in flames at the airport in Asmara, capital of the province, the spokesman said.

Ethiopia's Soviet-backed government last Tuesday launched a major offensive in a bid finally to crush the Eritrean independence movement, which has been fighting rule from Addis Ababa for some 20 years. The province was once autonomous.

## KENYA

### CAPE VERDE'S PEREIRA DEPARTS; DETAILS OF TALKS

EA212326 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] His Excellency Daniel arap Moi this afternoon bade farewell to President Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde, who has been on a 3-day visit to Kenya. Before he left the country, the two presidents issued a joint communique detailing issues which were discussed during President Pereira's visit.

Among other things, the two president reviewed the worsening situation in southern Africa and strongly condemned the racist regime in South Africa for denying the people of Namibia and South Africa their inalienable right for self-determination.

They praised the Namibian liberation organization, SWAPO, for its willingness to negotiate for acceptable basis on which a solution could be found and also the frontline states for their major role in supporting the struggle in the region. The two heads of state condemned the continued acts of aggression committed by South Africa against the peoples of Angola, Zambia, Mozambique, Lesotho and Seychelles and expressed total support for the people of those countries in their struggle against imperialism and colonialism.

In analyzing the situation in the Middle East, the two presidents declared that the search for a just and lasting solution in the region must necessarily take into account the recognition of the Palestine peoples inalienable right, including the right to establish their own state and withdrawal by Israel from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967. They expressed concern over the ongoing war in the Gulf between Iran and Iraq and called upon the two countries to resolve their differences peacefully through negotiations.

On the question of Western Sahara, the two presidents took note of the OAU's efforts in trying to find a just solution to the problem. President Pereira expressed his appreciation for the final efforts and dedication of President Moi in the implementation of the 18th OAU summit decision on Chad and observed that the OAU peace-keeping force already in Chad has been mobilized and is already doing a good job in that country.

In their review on the international economic situation, the two presidents regretted that the gap between the developed and the developing countries was widening. They stressed the need to accelerate economic and technical cooperation among the developing countries in order to solve their problems. The two presidents noted that the recent signing of the preferential trade area treaty in Lusaka was a big step towards implementing the Lagos plan of action aimed at solving some of Africa's economic problems.

President Moi expressed his satisfaction for the positive outcome of the summit of heads of state and government of the interstate committee for struggle against drought in Sahel region and congratulated President Pereira for being elected its chairman. The two presidents reaffirmed their determination to promote their bilateral cooperation and called for the intensification of those relations.

FOREIGN MINISTER OUKA DEPARTS FOR OAU MEETING

EA210301 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Excerpt] The minister for foreign affairs, who is also chairman of the OAU Council of Ministers, Dr Robert Ouka, has left Nairobi for Addis Ababa to attend the OAU Council of Ministers 38th session next week. During the council session, a new chairman will be elected to take over from Dr Ouka.

## SOMALIA

REBELS REPORT DEFECTIONS FROM GOVERNMENT FORCES

EA202104 (Clandestine) Radio Kulmis in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] The "radio Kulmis" reporter accompanying the 6th Colonel (Erow) division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] reports that a senior officer and his troops from the technical units of the forces still loyal to the so-called government of Mogadishu have defected to the Colonel (Erow) division of the DFSS. The officer and his soldiers will join the armed struggle aimed at toppling the decaying regime led by Siad Barre and restoring sovereignty and democracy to our country. Another report from the "radio Kulmis" reporter accompanying the 3d General (Gabayleh) division of the DFSS says that 15 soldiers defected to the DFSS from the 12th battalion of the 7th brigade of the Siad Barre force. The "radio Kulmis" reporter adds that soldiers from the 7th brigade have recently been defecting to the DFSS forces in large numbers.

## CHAD

### TRANSPORT MINISTER: ONLY SOLUTION IS MILITARY ONE

AB191814 Paris AFP in French 1655 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Paris, 19 Feb (AFP) -- The only solution to the Chadian crisis is a "military one," said Facho Balaam, Chadian minister of transport and public works, in a press conference in Paris on Friday.

The minister underscored the cohesion within the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] and expressed the view that the elimination of its principal rival, Hissein Habre, leader of the FAN, was a prerequisite for the restoration of peace and democracy in the country.

The GUNT has no intention of asking for external assistance to fight the FAN, affirmed the minister who believes that the power ratio is not in favor of Habre's troops.

The situation in the field has developed since 11 February to the advantage of government troops, Balaam declared. According to the minister, GUNT troops since then have recaptured Am Dam (Ouaddai division in the east of the country), then Goz (Ouaddai) where 400 FAN troops were taken prisoner, and Korotoror (center north). On 15 February at Oum Hadjer, 75 FAN joined government troops with their arms and vehicles, Balaam went on.

If the government forces, estimated at 35,000 to 40,000 men according to Balaam, "succeed in organizing themselves very quickly, the fall of Abeche will only be a matter of time." He added: "Habre only controls two divisions, Biltine and Quaddai, along with the Borkou subdivision. The rest of the country is under government control."

Referring to the recent Nairobi summit, Balaam accused certain OAU "control forces" and "imperialist agents" of manipulating the meeting. He cited Zaire, "supported financially, logistically and materially by the United States, and Togo." He stressed, however, that until the contrary is proven, we have confidence in the OAU, but the pan-African force should be a fighting force."

The GUNT is ready to organize elections, stated Balaam, and to start the democratic process in Chad. To achieve this aim, he observed, a constitutional commission was established last July and installed 2 weeks ago. This commission is to draw up a constitutional framework to initiate elections. This task might take 1-and-1/2 to 2 years, the minister said.

In addition, he revealed that the visit to France by Acyl Ahmat, Chadian minister of foreign affairs, scheduled to take place recently but postponed because of last minute hitches, would occur soon.

### GOVERNMENT FORCES BREAK SIEGE ON TOWN OF AM DAM

LD201028 Tripoli JANA in English 0807 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 20 Feb (JANA) -- Government forces succeeded yesterday in breaking the siege, imposed by northern forces, on the Chadian town of Am Dam.

## FAN Denies

AB220745 Paris AFP in English 0737 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 22 (AFP) -- Chad's rebel armed forces of the north (FAN) Sunday denied a Chadian Government claim that its troops had recaptured two towns from the rebels. A FAN representative here told AFP that Am Dam, Koro Toro and other towns "are under FAN's full control." The claim that government troops had recaptured the two towns from FAN, led by former Defense Minister Hissene Habre, was made in Paris by Chadian Transport Minister Facho Balaam, who also said that the town of Goz had been taken along with 400 FAN prisoners.

The FAN representative also accused France and Algeria of giving military aid to Chadian president Goukouni Oueddei's regime in order "to guarantee continuation of their influence in Chad." He claimed that there were some 50 Algerian soldiers in Dougia, 50 kms (30 miles) north of the Chadian capital Ndjamena, and that the French Government had sent "a large quantity of military equipment" to the Chadian Government.

## FAN OFFICIAL BLAMES RENEWED HOSTILITIES ON GUNT

AB221507 Paris AFP in French 1425 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Paris, 22 Feb (AFP) -- Hissein Habre's FAN is not responsible for the resumption of hostilities in Chad, Afal Ahmed, FAN representative in Europe, said in Paris on Monday, and places the fault on Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government of Chad [GUNT]. In a communique, Afal Ahmed confirmed that FAN still controls many towns it captured: Am Dam, Koro Toro, Onianga and Fada.

Afal Ahmed said FAN welcomes "with reserve" France's interest for the last resolution of the OAU permanent committee on Chad which met in Nairobi on 10 and 11 February. The French Government indicated on 17 February that is had noted "with interest" recommendations and resolutions adopted by African heads of state and government, and reaffirms its "faith in the principles of unity, territorial integrity and independence of Chad." The communique also denounces "the ambiguity" in the attitude of France which, it stresses, "assists Goukouni's men militarily and encourages them in their blind intransigence, and makes France the stumbling block to the return of peace in Chad."

## GOVERNMENT CLAIMS TROOPS RETAKE OUM HADJER

AB221315 Paris AFP in French 1242 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 22 February (AFP) -- On Monday military sources in Ndjamena said that the Chadian Government forces on Sunday recovered control of the town of Oum Hadjer located 150 kilometers west of Abeche in eastern Chad after a "fierce battle" with Hissein Habre's FAN.

In a communique broadcast over the radio, the Chadian Defense Ministry reported "the government counter-attack of the last few days" which shows that the Transitional National Union Government "is determined to wipe off the shame once and for all and meet the challenge of the agents of imperialism."

## GABON

### PRESIDENT BONGO REPROACHES OPPOSITION MOVEMENT

AB211144 Paris AFP in French 1055 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Libreville, 21 Feb (AFP) -- Gabonese President Omar Bongo stated during a press conference in Libreville on Saturday that the opposition Movement for National Redress (Morena) could not overthrow him in a coup d'etat if it wants to come to power.

Mr Bongo noted that the Gabonese Constitution does not authorize a multiparty system and that consequently Morena can only act outside the framework of the institutions, illegally. He also stated that Morena, which according to him acts through the distribution of tracts hostile to the regime, represents only a "few ambitious people," and reproached the leaders of the movement for remaining anonymous. "Let a leader make himself known, as we will talk," he said.

Mr Bongo said on the other hand that a democratic debate could develop within the only party, the Gabonese Democratic Party, at any time and that "all the different factions can express themselves there."

Morena claims that it is working for political pluralism in Gabon and the election of a president through a true "national consensus."

### BONGO OFFERS TO ARRANGE GOUKOUNI-HABRE MEETING

AB211137 Paris AFP in French 1047 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Libreville, 21 Feb (AFP) -- Gabonese President Omar Bongo said on Saturday that he is ready to arrange a meeting between Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei and FAN leader Hissene Habre, with a view to achieving national reconciliation in Chad.

Stating during a press conference that he was prepared to arrange such a meeting if he were asked to do so, Mr Bongo emphasized, however, that he has not received any request for his good offices. He added that on Friday he received a Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) envoy in Libreville and that during the meeting the issue of negotiations with Hissene Habre was not raised. Mr Bongo did not reveal the identity of the GUNT envoy.

The head of state also criticized the OAU's attitude toward Goukouni Oueddei's regime. He said: "The OAU should not have made a public call for negotiations between Goukouni and Habre. It should have kept such a request secret in order to ensure that it would eventually succeed," Mr Bongo added.

The Gabonese president said he was convinced that it is necessary to negotiate with the FAN leader "in order to reach an agreement." In Mr Bongo's view, "Refusing to negotiate with Hissene Habre is like agreeing to join ranks with an army batallion while ignoring its leader. One must not negotiate out of fear but then one must not fear to negotiate either," he concluded.

## ZAIRE

### MOVEMENT OF DIPLOMATS, FOREIGNERS RESTRICTED

AB201113 Paris AFP in English 1056 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Kinshasa, 20 Feb (AFP) -- The Zaire Government has imposed restrictions on the movements of diplomats and foreigners in the country with international organizations, reliable sources said today. The move was decided at yesterday's weekly Cabinet meeting, but no reason for the (?decision) was announced.

## GHANA

### RAWLINGS PLEDGES 'TO WORK CLOSELY WITH LIBYA'

AB191337 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Ghana has pledged to work closely with Libya to develop their revolutions in various fields. This is because such relations will give Africa a solid force. The pledge is contained in a letter from the Chairman of the PNDC [Provincial National Defense Council] Flight Lieutenant Rawlings to the Libyan leader, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. The letter was delivered to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli by the leader of Ghana's delegation to Libya, Chris Atim, a member of the PNDC.

Flight Lieutenant Raqlings stressed that the PNDC desired the development of relations between Ghana and the Arab countries and looked forward to carrying out the work at the African and Arab level. He said Ghanaians regard Colonel al-Qadhdhafi as an example worth emulating because he is great and strong enough to face the enemies of Africa.

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings emphasized that Ghana and Libya will stand together against Africa's enemies. He said history affirms that the road to freedom is the road of change through revolutionary regimes. The 31 December revolution in Ghana and the Great 1 September Revolution in Libya are therefore ready to work together to confront imperialism and racism.

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings stressed the need for the development of revolution relations between Ghana and Libya in the interest of the peoples of the two nations and Africa.

The Ghana delegation has held talks with Libya's oil secretary. they discussed bilateral relations and ways of developing cooperation especially in the field of oil.

### RAWLINGS NOTES 'CRUCIAL ROLE' PLAYED BY POLICE

AB210757 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] The chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, has urged the people's police to resist any form of pressure that made them oppressive tools of the past rulers against the people. He told the closing session of the 3-day special police seminar in Accra yesterday that the police have a crucial role to play in changing the national character. Flight Lieutenant Rawlings observed that if past civilian governments were oppressive it is because the people allowed themselves to be used as tools in that regard. Neither the judiciary, lawyers or the police were able to offer the nation justice. This situation should not be allowed to continue.

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings emphasized that he is committed to the dignity of man and so he does not wish to abuse anybody. He therefore urged Ghanaians not to allow themselves to be misused. They should be able to resist oppression, he said, adding that moral courage is a mark of dignified personality.

Tsatsu Tsikata of the Faculty of Law, University of Ghana, also spole and he reminded the officers that the revolution is a long and hard struggle whose success will depend on a more disciplined and vigilant police. He hoped the police would serve to consolidate the success and advancement of the revolution. This calls for self-examination with a view to correcting past mistakes.

The secretary to the PNDC, Mr Asamoah, noted that the present revolution is irreversible. Ghanaians are awake and willing to die for their country. Mr Asamoah stressed the need for more cordial relations between the police and the public.

The secretary for information, Ato Austin, said the revolution is the only one which has understanding and respect for the people's initiative and it will depend on the ability of the individual to bring about the required meaningful change in the society. Ato Austin urged all Ghanaians to contribute to it. The police pledged to be the torchbearers of the revolution. Flight Lieutenant Rawlings presented certificates to the participants.

FOREIGN SECRETARY LEADS OAU DELEGATIONS

AB220927 Accra Domestic Service in English 0800 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] The 38th session of the OAU Ministerial Council opens in Addis Ababa later today. Matters to be discussed include the organization's finances, the Chad situation and Namibia's independence problem. The meeting is also to hand over the chairmanship to Libya. A six-member Ghana delegation is attending the meeting. It is led by the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah. He described the session as an important one for Ghana, because it will give him the opportunity to defend and explain the objectives of the revolution. Dr Asamoah said this will correct the misrepresentation and distortion of facts being propagated by the enemies of the revolution.

## NIGERIA

NPN OFFICIAL URGES END TO CHAOS, DISORDER

AB201240 Lagos NAN in English 1233 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Lagos, 20 Feb (NAN) -- The NPN [National Party of Nigeria] national director of publicity, Alhaji Habibu Sani, has warned political detractors in the country to desist from any activity that was capable of bringing chaos and disorder.

Alhaji Sani made the appeal in Lagos on Thursday while reacting to the reported discovery of an arms factory in the Cross River and the recent seizure of a large consignment of arms and teargas at Murtala Mohammed Airport.

He told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that there was evidence of anarchists and detractors acquiring arms and ammunitions which they intend to use to cause disorder and chaos before 1983.

Alhaji Sani said that the party's headquarters had carried out a massive reorganization to cope with the challenging demands of 1983.

## NAMIBIA

### RSA PLANE SHOT DOWN; SWAPO CLAIMS VICTORIES

EA191252 Addis Ababa Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 18 Feb 82

[SWAPO program]

[Text] The South West Africa People's Organization, SWAPO of Namibia, said yesterday that its freedom fighters of the Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia, PLAN, has shot down a racist South African fighter plane and a helicopter and put out of combat 360 racist South African soldiers in Namibia.

The official Angolan news agency, ANGOP, quoted a communique issued by SWAPO headquarters in Luanda as saying that the pilot of the South African Impala Mark Two Fighter died when his plane was brought down during a bombing raid on (Okankolo) some 75 km west of Ondangua on 5th January 1982.

The SWAPO communique said that the militants of the organization's armed wing, the Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia, PLAN, had also captured a racist South African soldier and put another 360 out of combat in various operations in Namibia last month. The gallant fighters of SWAPO also destroyed an armored personnel carrier, 55 military trucks, 25 tractors and two other vehicles.

SWAPO, which is fighting for the independence of Namibia from racist Pretoria, said that in one ambush on a South African army patrol in the (Outapi) district, some 100 km north-east of Oshakati in northren Namibia last month, five racist South African soldiers were killed and many others seriously wounded. As a consequence of this clash, a considerable amount of war material was captured from the enemy, including two South Africa ground-to-air communications systems to direct air attacks, a 40 mm grenade launcher, a flare piston, an FN rifle and a pair of binoculars.

The communique, issued by SWAPO headquarters in Luanda, clearly states the fact that SWAPO combatants are not operating from the Angolan territory rather than within the Namibian territory [as heard]. SWAPO has also sought to prove to the world that the racist South African raids have not affected the military activities of our movement.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### RADIO WARNS MUGABE ABOUT STATEMENTS ON S. AFRICA

LD191156 Johannesburg International Service in English 0400 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Station commentary]

[Text] It is significant that the Zimbabwean prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, has made a point of stating unequivocally that the South African Government refused on two occasions to have anything to do with a planned coup in Zimbabwe by supporters of Mr Nkomo's ZAPU party. This despite the fact that on various occasions Mr Mugabe has accused South Africa of being a destablizing influence in southern Africa. This is the second time in recent months that it has been disclosed that South Africa was requested, but refused, to take part in a coup attempt. Immediately after the attempted coup in the Seychelles one of the dissident groups said that South Africa had been asked to assist in an attempt to overthrow the government but had refused outright to do so.

These disclosures are all indicative of the actual position and that is that South Africa is primarily interested in the maintenance of stability. Insofar as Zimbabwe is concerned this has been evident virtually from the day Zimbabwe achieved independence in April 1980.

In his initial policy speeches, the prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, indicated that he was taking a reasonable and pragmatic line in his relationships with South Africa.

He indicated that economic ties between the two countries would continue undisturbed and that he preferred a policy on noninterference in each other's internal affairs. South Africa went out of her way to welcome this approach by Zimbabwe and the talk generally was of constructive relations between the two countries.

However, then the situation began to deteriorate as Mr Mugabe's government took action to discourage Zimbabwean workers from seeking employment in South Africa and when the preferential trade agreement between the two countries was placed in jeopardy. This was accompanied by a widespread campaign in the media against South Africa and repeated accusations by Mr Mugabe that South Africa was acting to the detriment of Zimbabwe and was responsible for many of the problems developing in the country. Despite this, South Africa, if properly handled, could be to the benefit of both countries. The fact that South Africa had nothing to do with the Nkomo arms caches should prove to Mr Mugabe South Africa's good faith.

## ZAMBIA

### TONHA-LED ANGOLAN DELEGATION ARRIVES 15 FEB

EA161150 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] The Angolan delegation led by member of the Political Bureau of the MPLA-Labor Party, Col Pedro Maria Tonha, and defense minister, arrived yesterday for discussions with the Zambian Government on matters of mutual interest. A spokesman for the office of the secretary of state for defense and security said the Angolan delegation also includes members of the Political Bureau and ministers of state security, home affairs and vice minister for external affairs. A spokesman added that discussions will be [word indistinct] by the secretary of defense and security, Mr Grey Zulu.

## ZIMBABWE

### NKOMO NOW 'STRUGGLING TO BUILD ZIMBABWE'

LD201722 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] The leader of ZAPU, Mr Nkomo, told a news conference in Bulawayo today that he is now geared to work to build Zimbabwe. Mr Nkomo, who was sacked from the government on Wednesday, said: I am now struggling to build Zimbabwe and make sure it does not disintegrate. He added: I am back where I was 22 months ago. Mr Nkomo confirmed reports that he had been barred from leaving Salisbury on Thursday night by air (?from) Bulawayo.

### ZAPU VICE PRESIDENT PLEDGES SUPPORT TO MUGABE

CA211148 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Excerpt] The vice president of ZAPU and former minister of transport, Mr Josiah Chinamano, has pledged his continued support for the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, the government and a merger of ZANU/PF and ZAPU. The Sunday MAIL reports that Mr Chinamano made the declaration in a recent statement of personal views in the wake of the recent discovery of arms caches. Denying that he was implicated in a plot to overthrow the government, Mr Chinamano said he assumed that he was accused of knowledge of the arms caches because of his position in his party and because he was director of some ZAPU companies. He said ZAPU is willing to assist the government in tracing the culprits who buried the arms in Matabeleland, adding that he is personally willing to assist the (?courts) in every way so that the truth can be established.

PRIME MINISTER MUGABE'S 17 FEB PRESS CONFERENCE

LD181424 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's 17 February press conference in Salisbury -- recorded]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, comrades and friends: I know that you have been waiting for a long time. I'm sorry there has been a delay in our beginning this program. We have had to see to unforeseen matters before coming here and so may I ask your forgiveness for the delay in the program. The subject is, however, a very important one. It is the subject of the security of the state of Zimbabwe.

All of you have read, heart about the finds, huge finds of arms that was made by our security forces at a number of forms belonging to companies that are owned by members of ZAPU or Patriotic Front-ZAPU. Earlier on as we integrated our cadres, ZANLA-ZIPRA, [Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army - Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army], and conducted searches in the vicinity of their assembly points, we discovered huge quantities of arms of Mashumbi Pools, (Gwaai) and (Chilalamufa), three major assembly points (?left) by former ZIPRA cadres. We did not take much notice of this discovery because we felt it was perhaps a measure adopted by suspicious cadres who felt they might have to resort to the arms one day for their own protection. And so we carted the arms, huge though the quantities were, without even publishing the details in the paper. However, our security forces kept the necessary records.

But when we recently discovered arms on farms owned by members of the Patriotic Front-ZAPU, arms which they obviously knew about because they were connected very closely with those farms, I mean those of them who were directors -- I'll come to distinctions between he directors and others later -- and were arms whose quantity and whose caliber was of such a nature that they couldn't have just been taken from (?latter) days, meaningless finds [as heard], then they raised in us a number of questions which needed answering. These farms were owned by ZAPU members and amongst the directors was the president of ZAPU, Joshua Nkomo. He was instrumental in [words indistinct] surely the arms must have been hidden for a purpose? And so we began now to knit the story between finds at the farms and the finds around the assembly points. And we also began knitting a story, a pattern, between the arms and the large number of farms that had been acquired by these people. And the story began unfolding in a very logical way. So many farms, on some of them so many arms, farms so strategically chosen, and many of them are along the main routes either out of Bulawayo or out of Salisbury, or out of Gwelo or Umtali. And the story was a very clear one: They were being hoarded, these arms, for the eventuality of a war. But what war? We had fought a just was for the liberation of our country and liberated it. Independence came in 1980; the people of Zimbabwe are free. The people of Zimbabwe have one government which they have chosen; there is a democratic order in the country. What war was this to be? An explanation, the only one we could give, was that the war was going to be one to overthrow the legitimate government, comprised mainly of ZANU members. Then, also, we began to see the truth of what some of our security men had told us at the time. That soon after the elections, Mr Joshua Nkomo approached General Walls and requested that he arrange meetings between him and the South Africans. And General Walls, which is the last statement he made to us before he left, said he arranged two meetings. At those two meetings, the first and the second, Nkomo asked whether in the event of ZAPU resorting to an attempted coup, an attempt to overthrow the government, South Africa would back ZAPU? And South Africa said no at the first meeting. Yet another meeting was held, so persistent was Joshua Nkomo to get a fresh answer. And Walls again (?quote) was asked to assist as an intermediary. He said, at this second meeting which he had arranged, the South Africans also turned down the request. We asked Comrade Nkomo later, just about the time General Walls was leaving the country, whether he had in fact arranged these meetings. He denied that.

And other rumors came our way later that some meetings were taking place between him and the other parties to try and arrange a strategy to overthrow the government. We dismissed them. However, now we look foolish, very foolish, to have dismissed these rumors, because the man is caught red-handed. So he didn't have the arms all ready to perform the act of firing? But there they were in his possession, at farms owned by his groups, and over which he was director. It cannot be denied that the arms were being hoarded for the purpose of trying to overthrow my government.

And what were (?the quantities)? Now that we are looking at the matter, at (?Ascot), the Nitram farms, 7 SAM-7 missiles or Strelas were found, 520 AK rifles, 54 RPG, 8 water cooled (?GKM's), 8 (?RPK) and [word indistinct] submachine guns [word indistinct], 13 HMG's, 1 MMG, 54 bazookas, 16 mortars, 31 recoilless rifles, to mention only the major items. And ammunition for the 762.2 [as heard] caliber, that is, caliber, SKS rifles and AK rifles, 896,000 each bullet, mind you is meant for a target and if it is straight on target it means 896,000 innocent souls who were meant to die from those bullets -- 896,000!

But that's not all. You have also other ammunition for the mortars, shells for the bazookas, 981. [sentence as heard] And when you add now what we found at Mashumbi Pools, (Gwaai), Ascot and (Chilalamufa) together, you will (?find it) a very astounding and stunning total of 25 Strela, SAM-7's, 2,086 AK rifles, (?4,068) SKS rifles, 327 RPD's, 63 (?GKM's), 12 (?RPK), 88 [word indistinct] and so on and so forth. And the ammunition total for the AK rifles amounts to 2,051,426. And as I said, if each bullet is on target, some 2 million souls were meant to perish from this, just from the AK rifles.

Now, my government cannot take a matter of this proportion lightly, and accordingly we ordered that all the farms belonging to these groups, ZAPU groups, be confiscated and under the Unlawful Organizations Act they have been seized. It is a very serious matter indeed. However, we have decided on the one hand to allow the law to take its full course and we will not interfere with the process of justice. The police will investigate the case and I'm sure there will be people who have quite a big case to answer. On the other hand, of course, there's the government. We have a political duty which we cannot leave to the police to perform for us, their's is a nonpolitical role. The government performs a political role -- after all the government comes about as a result of a political decision by the population.

And so, as the government, we have decided that those we believe are implicated should cease, if they are ministers, to be ministers forthwith. And accordingly I have decided to drop from the government Mr Joshua Nkomo; Mr Josiah Chinamano; Mr Joseph Msika; Mr Ntuta, who was deputy minister of mines. We have decided on this course after studying the cases, what we view as the implication or involvement of these [word indistinct] (?ministers) in the whole exercise of acquiring farms for purposes of waging an armed struggle by using them as bases.

But we have also made a decision here, and I want this point clear, it is very clear to us that the remaining people in ZAPU did not know what was going on. Only a clique, perhaps at the top, plus some commanders, knew about this exercise. And so, we cannot be unfair to the ordinary ZAPU follower and begin to accuse him of preparing for a war. We distinguish between the wrongdoers. Those who must have undertaken the exercise, those whom we accept knew about the arms, those whom we expect entertained the notion of a civil war, the wrongdoers, between them and the rest of the people, who are innocent. And the innocent must not be made to suffer. Accordingly, not all members of ZAPU in government are being dropped.

Those I have not named are free to continue as members of government; we have nothing against them. Many of them have performed their duties very faithfully and very efficiently so they are free to continue in government. But it is entirely up to them to take the decision since, in the first instance they came into government through the sponsorship of the party, they might very well feel that it is necessary for them to consult the party if they are to remain in government. That they can do, freely do. And for us, whichever way it goes, whichever way the decision they take goes, we will be prepared to accept it. But obviously, as far as we are concerned, they are free to continue in government.

And the same goes for other sponsored people from ZAPU who are in other spheres of government, in ministries and those of course of ZIPRA friends, former ZIPRA friends, who are in the army. They need fear no, they don't have to entertain any, fear from government that they will be victimized. [sentence as heard] They are free to continue in the army, they are free to continue in any sphere of government activity where they are employed. However, the former commanders, we believe there were a few who were responsible for the hoarding of arms and hiding them in places where it was expected they could easily be accessible in the events of a war. Well, those will have their cases examined by us, and we have already started the exercise. But the bulk of the people, the bulk of the cadres do not have to fear anything. I understand some are demoralized; they don't know what government is going to do and I wish to assure them that we will not victimize anybody.

We have started the exercise of establishing one society, one army and that exercise must not be allowed to fail by unscrupulous actions being taken against them even though they are innocent. However, those of them who we regard as wrongdoers, as I say, must answer for, one: their crimes -- and courts will, I'm sure, hear their cases in due course; two: answer also for their political crimes. The dishonesty that has accompanied this act! Here we were, working to build one society; here were we, working to unite people and unite our parties in gradual stages and we have started the process by combining our forces in the national government, but, all of a sudden, we get this blow. We get this expression of utter dishonesty on the party of those we have taken into confidence. And so, the political action that we have taken is precisely because we feel cheated. We feel that those we had trusted as partners have turned out to be deceitful traitors. But I'm sure that these events have taught people a great lesson. We will not allow it to divide our people. We will examine it, deal with it as objectively as we can and the rest of the people must not be lumped together as offenders if they happen to be ZAPU, and I hope our own supporters of ZANU will not treat ordinary ZAPU supporters as offenders. If there are offenders, the offenders were those in the group of Joshua Nkomo and these alone must suffer the consequences of their action and not the rest of the people.

Now also on the agenda tonight, not necessitated, necessarily necessitated by these events, is the long awaited reshuffle. [Mugabe breaks into laughter] Only the heads that I narrated have fallen. The rest have been really adjustments in the ministries to bring about greater effectiveness and to make for greater efficiency. And so here are the Cabinet reshuffles that you journalists have asked me to make for a very long time because you began talking about them even before they were ready.

We have decided that we should combine our Ministry of Finance with the Ministry of Economic Planning to have one ministry. And so that ministry is going to be headed by Comrade Bernard Chidzero who takes over the Ministry of Finance and combines it with economic planning.

This is done in the interests of rationalization. We believe the two cannot be divorced from each other. And we are creating a new Ministry of National Supply which will be headed by Comrade Nkala. This is in view of the fact that we have experienced some problems in the past and government was paying (?money) to companies to supply the arms and got (?deceived) quite a lot. Whereas if we have a ministry which caters for the army and for the other arms of government, the (?schools) and other departments, that possibility of fraudulent activity would be averted.

Then also, we are creating a new Ministry of Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, which will be headed by my friend, Comrade Zvobgo. It has come to him [word indistinct] as a surprise, but he is a man who is used to surprises and I can assure (?him) that this in the [word indistinct] to codify our law, to bring about a lot of legal reforms in the legal system, reform our Parliament, and we need his legal brain there.

Then we are also shifting the minister who is having a drink just now -- the minister of home affairs, whose speciality is really trade and commerce. That is why he [words indistinct] to trade and commerce where we have a gap. And we are bringing in Herbert Ushewokunze at home affairs. Then we are also raising the present deputy minister of lands, Mahachi, to the post of full minister as minister of lands, resettlement and rural development. I'll come to the minister who was heading the ministry later. We are creating a Ministry of Water Resources and Development as a separate ministry, separate from natural resources, because we believe that in future our agriculture can thrive not just on God given rain -- rain which is not God-given at the moment, except in the area of Salisbury -- but also on our water resources which are in the rivers and underground, and work out a system of irrigation throughout the country. So we have created a Ministry of Water Resources and Development which we are giving to Comrade Mumbengegwi.

Then, what was the Ministry of Natural Resources which had to deal with our parks, our game and quite a degree of tourism, we are giving the arm of tourism, which the minister of information used to wield -- not that he will be one-armed but that at least he loses that arm to natural resources, and we have now a Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, which will be headed by Mrs Chitepo. And we are having also a replacement -- having to make a replacement -- for the minister of transport, who has been axed, and we are bringing in a man who worked on the railways for a long time but who is ambassador, at the moment, to Tanzania. That is Comrade Masango. That is precisely because the railways constitute our major problem and we would want him to provide a solution. I'll have to find him room in Parliament once again, but that's no difficulty at the moment.

Then, the deputy minister of local government and housing, Chikowore, takes over the ministry, at the moment. Some adjustment might have to be made in respect of structure later. The present deputy minister of finance, Comrade Munyaradzi, becomes the minister of health -- quite a surprise in store for many of you -- but Munyaradzi is not a surprise. Then, the present acting minister of health and minister of lands, Comrade Sekeramayi, comes into the prime minister's office as minister of state for help with defense matters. He will combine with Comrade Mnangagwa.

There are structural adjustments which have been made, and as I say, these are just initial ones. We might have to make other structural arrangements depending on what happens when comrades of ZAPU give us their decision. But the structural arrangements I have made just now, some of which I have already stated, are, one: the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Economic Planning and Development combine into one ministry. Posts and telecommunications, which was the arm attaching to roads and road traffic is excised and given to the Ministry of Information, so that the minister of information becomes minister of information, posts and telecommunications. I'm sure the ZBC [Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation] will be very happy about that [word indistinct].

Then, as I said, tourism is removed from the Ministry of Information and gets attached to the Ministry of Natural Resources. Water development is also removed from the Ministry of Natural Resources to create a new Ministry of Water Resources and Development. And then we have created a new Ministry of Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. So there it is, this is what you wanted me to do and I have done it as faithfully as I could.

Right, with that I'm sure I leave you to ask questions. [applause]

Any questions, yes?

[Question] [Name indistinct] of [word indistinct] from London. Can you tell me in the light of the public denial by Mr Nkomo that he knew about these arms, what he said to you when presumably you (?put) the subject (?to him)?

[Answer] What he said to us? Well, we told him about these finds, in fact, when we last had our meeting and it was on Friday, the Friday last, the last week but one. We mentioned the subject but we were still not yet in a position to discuss this fully because information was still coming our way. He said: Well you know what our comrades can do. This is perhaps one of the things that they have done and there (?lots) [words indistinct], but we should have informed him that we were going to conduct the search before we conducted it, not that he would have wanted to tell the people in advance but that so he was in a position to answer any questions which his supporters might ask him. But of course where arrests (?have) taken place he was not able to answer questions because he wasn't aware that government was going to act that way. This is what he said. Yes?

[Question] I'd like to ask Comrade Prime Minister how can you be assured that there are no other arms [words indistinct]? Perhaps there are other factions, like for instance Muzorewa [word indistinct].

[Answer] Well, the exercise to search for arms is a continual one. We know there are still some arms elsewhere. From our security records and security reports, we know that some arms are yet to be discovered and this is why we have appealed to the leadership of ZAPU as well as to former leaders of ZIPRA to come out and assist government so that we can get these arms into the national armory. We do hope that as time goes on more and more arms will be discovered and the quantities of those arms which remain to be discovered will lessen as we make these discoveries. It is true that the other factions might have their arms, in fact, [words indistinct] people or former Rhodesian security people have been found in possession of arms and so individuals also still have arms in their possession. We would hope that these individuals will pluck some courage and come to government and reveal that they have arms. If this happens, I'm sure the police will not prosecute them even though after the expiry of the amnesty they will be entitled to prosecute. But I'm sure a person who comes to them (?with) arms, which he for one reason or another has been holding, will not be prosecuted.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] We have said if cases are, the case of Stuttaford is sub judice [as heard], but I have in the past indicated that the reason we arrested him was because of the evidence that came our way that he approached former ZIPRA with the intention of joining forces or getting them to join forces with him and others in order to overthrow the government, which is evidence that we've got. And [word indistinct] of the strength of that evidence that's why we arrested him. Why should we arrest [word indistinct] Stuttaford alone and leave people like Ian Smith free?

[Question] [Words indistinct] two small questions [word indistinct]. Comrade Prime Minister, is there any involvement of a superpower in any neighboring country in the present arms caches? [Word indistinct] second question is how much is [word indistinct] property worth?

[Answer] I don't want to (?read) the involvement of other powers or our neighbors. This is an affair which has happened long after the arms have come into the country and we were aware ourselves that arms which were due to be recovered from our rear bases in Mozambique and Zambia, that they were coming in and that they were coming in [as heard] and they were coming with [word indistinct] (?promises) that whatever arms remained behind are to be brought in so that they could be in the national armory. And so these arms were brought in according to that process, but of course instead of their being taken to the national armory, they were diverted to Gwaai and this is where we had our first quarrel with our former ZIPRA comrades, because they diverted the arms to Gwaai instead of getting them into the armory in Bulawayo or Salisbury here. And eventually when we asked that the arms be surrendered we had a bit of trouble and there was resistance and ultimately some were surrendered but we were not happy because we knew that a great number had been held back and this is the story we are getting that, in fact, what we believed had happened is what precisely happened: The arms were held back and hidden.

As to the involvement of superpowers, no again. I don't want to involve any superpowers. But the arms were brought from friends, whether these friends were China or the Soviet Union, by ZANLA [Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army] and ZIPRA respectively, and these powers gave arms which they did for purposes of furthering armed struggle and this is, in fact, what they managed to do. But it is the use to which the arms were going to be put and the manner in which the arms were held which give us concern and which are the subject of our action at present. Yes?

[Question] Prime Minister, you said there were two aspects to this, illegal and (?political). Which in your opinion is the most serious and also how far in advance did you know about these caches of arms before you exposed them publicly?

[Answer] Before they were...?

[Question] Before they were exposed publicly, how long did you know about them?

[Answer] Which is the more important of the two? Well, I think both are equally important. Of course, a crime has very serious connotations about it in that a person has done, has committed an act which in the public view renders him, as it were, a person who is not one with the public and it isolates an individual. It gives an image which is marred with guilt, I mean which mars him with guilt and so he ceases in the public eye to be an innocent person. So, the commission of a crime does isolate one, it quarantines an individual, sets him away from the public. But, in our opinion, the political aspect is equally important. And that is why we are taking action. Here is a political leader who, together with us, accepted the constitution granted us at Lancaster House, who contested the elections, accepted the results of that election, who after losing those elections was invited to join hands with us in government and agreed to do so in order to forge a government of national unity and create a base for unity in the country. He accepted to do this.

But, what has he done in reality? His true self is now reflected by these acts of dishonesty. He knew about these arms, probably was instrumental in getting them hidden for the eventuality of a war. No war could have been fought by former ZIPRA without his countenancing it. And so, on the political side he [word indistinct] the principle of oneness which we had tried to establish. He proves himself to have been dishonest, (?because) he, in his heart of hearts, he did not accept the result of the election, although he pretended he had accepted it, because he wanted to overthrow the government and undo that result and fill the political [word indistinct].

[word indistinct] there is therefore a balance between, between the legal side and the political side. And so, on our political side, what we have done politically, we undo to the extent of merely getting those characters we believe have not worked for the [word indistinct] but we also discriminate in favor of those we believe were innocent in the whole affair.

[Unidentified voice] We'll have two more questions [word indistinct].

[Question] Have you had any discussion with other people in ZAPU in your Cabinet which would indicate whether they are prepared to stay in government or whether they want to leave?

[Answer] They say they simply were sponsored by the party. They would want to hear what the party says. It could be that the party will ask them to stay on. It could be that the party will ask them to leave because the leader has been dropped. It could be that even in spite of the party's decision to get them to quit, they might decide to continue. So they are yet to make up their minds.

[Question] Prime Minister, it would appear [words indistinct] to plot and overthrow your government when they [words indistinct] Don't you think that now that they are out they will still [words indistinct].

[Answer] it would take a very foolish man after this event to organise (?on) the overthrow of my government. Mind you, you don't overthrow a government (?when his) arms are tied to his chair. We are a government that has emerged out of a war experience and even if they had tried really to work towards a (?coup) [words indistinct], staged an attempt I can assure you they would have been repulsed and repulsed very vigorously with collosal, tremendous losses on their side. We fought the war together and our performance is known. That performance is an experience to us and a (?great) experience, too, is the fact that there have been discussions in private aimed at mobilizing support to overthrow the government. From the very moment we took over as predominantly ZANU government, we were aware that there were plans to overthrow the government, that General Walls had his own plan, Muzorewa [word indistinct] South Africa had their own plan, Nkomo had tried to solicit the aid of South Africa [words indistinct] and we worked therefore with tremendous vigilance from the moment we knew whom we were dealing with. (?Yes) we invite people in government alongside us, but we remain vigilant all the time and we would be a damned fool to expect that the man who yesterday was opposed to you becomes immediately upon joining forces with you a close ally. And so we have had ourselves preparations, steps taken to ensure that in the event of an attempted coup there will be [words indistinct] a reversion to the period before 1980, or to any situation other than that decreed by the people of this country. There may be [words indistinct] but certainly there can never be a defeat of the ZANU government by force of arms when ZANU has been voted into power by the people and ZANU has emerged as a political force from armed struggle.

[Unidentified voice] On your behalf I should thank the prime minister for speaking so frankly to the press this evening. Thank you. [applause]

ZAPU MINISTER MUCHACHI QUITS GOVERNMENT

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[Text] The minister of works, Comrade Muchachi, has announced that he intends to formaly resign from the government.

Comrade Muchachi, who is the ZAPU secretary for external affairs, told the ZIMBABWE NEWS AGENCY in an interview today that he will stop working for the government with immediate effect. Comrade Muchachi is one of four ZAPU-nominated ministers and deputy ministers who were not implicated in the ZAPU plot to overthrow the government. He and the other three had been given the choice of either remaining in their posts or resigning after the dismissal of Mr Nkomo and three others from his cabinet by the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe.